NMI cited as example of increasing danger, damage. PAGE 2
Dueñas is new Saipan airport manager. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

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Salvation Army serves 700 meals

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Salvation Army's Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner served 700 meals to dozens of community members yesterday at the Garapan Central Park.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Dozens of volunteers gathered yesterday morning at the Garapan Central Park to prepare and serve 700 meals for the Salvation Army's Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner.

Volunteers gathered as early as 5am that morning to prepare the meals, and had to start a little earlier than their original opening time of 11am due to the waiting crowd.

See SALVATION on Page 4

Magofna: A recipe for disaster

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Magofna

If the CNMI government and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are not proactive and aggressive in collecting their receivables, then that's a recipe for disaster, according to Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan).

» 'No wonder why CUC has been in the red for so many years'

Magofna underscored the need for the government and CUC to beef up their collection enforcement in her comments during the Senate Public Utilities, Transportation &

See MAGOFNA on Page 4

Saipan mayor wants lawsuit dismissed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Ramon B. Camacho's lawyer has asked the Superior Court to dismiss the lawsuit filed by Construction & Material Supply Inc.,

Camacho

which alleges that the mayor has failed to pay for materials and services provided to his office.

Camacho's lawyer, Michael Evangelista, has filed a motion to dismiss CMS' suit, which accuses Camacho of not paying $36,126.25 in quarry fees.

According to Evangelista, the Municipality of Saipan

See MAYOR on Page 4

DUE TO LIMITED RESOURCES

'Stray animal population far surpasses care capacity'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Grace Keilbach, left, who runs Boonie Babies, a local non-profit dog rescue on Saipan, expresses strong support in this screen grab from YouTube to House Bill 23-34 as her sister, Aria, waits for her turn to speak during the House of Representatives Health and Welfare Committee meeting on Monday.

» Keilbach sisters support use of drugs for animal euthanasia

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to extremely limited natural and human resources, the islands' stray and shelter dog population far surpasses its care capacity, according to sisters Grace and Ari Keilbach who both run Boonie Babies, a local non-profit dog rescue on Saipan.

See STRAY on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
University of Guam junior Ivan Sablan Blanco is the new Rotary Club of Tokyo-Atago Scholar.
PAGE 8

LOCAL
Northern Marianas College associate professor William Fife recently participated in a webinar panel hosted by the American Bar Association Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice.
PAGE 9

LIFE & STYLE
A faded and cracked felt bicorne hat worn by Napoléon Bonaparte sold for $2.1 million at an auction Sunday.
PAGE 17

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Better Together

Local

IN 5TH NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

CNMI cited as an example of increasing danger, damage

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 5th National Climate Assessment that the White House released last week features the CNMI as an example of the increasing danger posed by climate change and the damage it inflicts.

Sablan

The report paid specific attention to Super Typhoon Yutu, which caused $500 million in property damage on the islands in 2018, not to mention the loss of life and the economic downturn the CNMI is still experiencing, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend.

The Yutu experience underscored how events such as cyclones, flooding, and droughts combine with societal factors to acutely affect human health and safety, according to the report.

The Global Change of Research of 1990 mandates the U.S. Global Change Research Program to deliver a report to the U.S. Congress and the President not less frequently than ever four years. The report assesses the climate change impacts, risk, and responses of the United States.

Although the report documents an overall reduction in U.S. emissions of the greenhouse gases causing the planet to heat up and an increase in actions by every state and non-state area to reduce the impacts of this climate change, much more is needed, Sablan said.

The report says climate change-related disasters in America are costing $1 billion in damage every three weeks.

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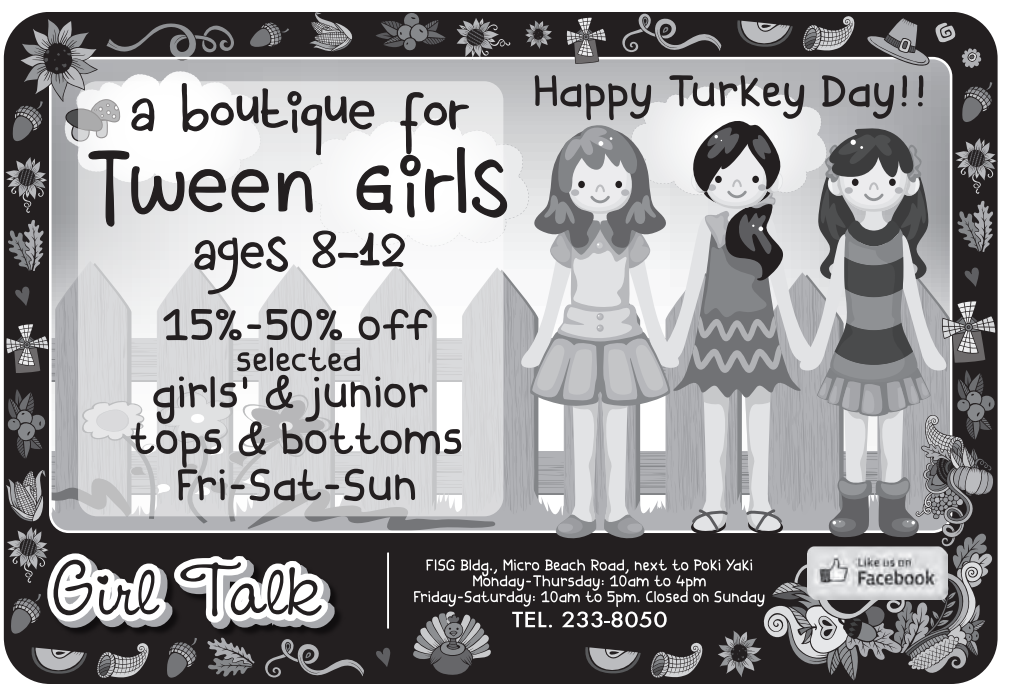
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HSEM gets over $2M in preparedness funding

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management was given over $2 million in fiscal year 2023 through a preparedness grant from the U.S Department of Homeland Security.

HSEM highlighted this grant in its recently released community-centric report, where they highlighted some of their major accomplishments in the past fiscal year.

According to the report, one of the most notable accomplishments the department had in the last fiscal year was being awarded a total of $2,076,096 from the U.S Department of Homeland Security.

In addition, the department also received $264,795 in tsunami mitigation funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Another accomplishment HSEM had this past fiscal year was the development of Tsunami Evacuation Maps with a whole-community approach for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"Evacuation routes were assessed and refined through special considerations made from input and data gathered from CNMI stakeholders and residents during town hall meetings. This effort was done in tandem with the replacement of Tsunami Evacuation Signs around the island of Saipan. Tsunami evacuation maps and signs, and tsunami outreach materials were updated to reflect accurate and current information," the report said.

SALVATION

From page 1

The Salvation Army was able to serve an estimated 400 meals in the first hour alone.

There was no lack of entertainment either, with volunteers performing songs, blowing balloons, face painting, and playing games with the families and children who came out.

Saipan Interact clubs were one of the groups that volunteered that day, and some of them shared their takeaways from the event.

"Today it was quite fun. It feels really good to help others. That's what it's all about you know service above self," said Southern High School's Patricia Borja.

Saipan International School's Wendy Son said this was her first time to be involved in an event like this. "It was actually really fun—the opportunity we had to sing and make balloons and give it to kids. …It's way better than I had originally expected."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers smile for a selfie during the Salvation Army's Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Garapan Central Park yesterday.

Salvation Army pastor Wayne Gillespie said the Thanksgiving meals giveaway is an annual event for the group and many people actually show up.

"Many of them came early so we adapted to that and started serving. The heroes are not all here on site. The real heroes are up there on [Capital Hill] preparing the food. We have lots and lots of volunteers up on [Capital Hill and] they did 700 meals today," he said.

Along with ordering some turkey from Herman's Modern Bakery—enough for 700 meals—the volunteers also cooked the rice and vegetables, and had the food trayed for serving, he added.

While a group was onsite serving the food, the other group prepared the food, and they were able to see every seat at the Garapan Central Park occupied, he said.

He shared that there were several people who hadn't known that there were still a number of homeless people on Saipan

"We have at least 20 in the Garapan area alone who work with us and we feed them three times a week. We even provide a church service for them on Sundays, so we're taking care of the homeless," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers share a smile during the Salvation Army's Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Garapan Central Park yesterday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young volunteers pose for the camera just before the Salvation Army's Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner at the Garapan Central Park yesterday.

MAYOR

From page 1

is not a chartered municipality subject to a lawsuit, therefore Camacho cannot be sued for damages in his official capacity.

"There presently are only two chartered municipalities in the CNMI: the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan and the Municipality of Rota. Saipan is not a chartered municipality able to sue and be sued. *United States v. Borja* held that [only] the Municipality of Tinian is a lawful entity that can be sued. While its analysis applies equally to the Municipality of Rota, it does not apply to Saipan," Evangelista said.

Evangelista added that the office of the Mayor of Saipan or the Municipality of Saipan has no treasury of its own, so all debts and obligations of the mayor and the municipality are paid out of the Commonwealth's Treasury.

"Accordingly, any suit for payment of money damages needs to be brought against the Commonwealth and defended by the attorney general," he said.

Instead of suing Camacho and the Municipality of Saipan, Evangelista argues that CMS should be suing the Commonwealth or the Department of Public Land secretary or both.

"Instead of seeking money from Mayor RB and the Municipality of Saipan, plaintiff should be suing the Secretary of Public Lands to enforce plaintiff's rights under the public benefit provision of the Temporary Occupancy Agreement against the secretary of Public Lands. And if plaintiff is seeking a monetary judgment to be paid out of the CNMI Treasury, it needs to sue the Commonwealth and serve the attorney general," Evangelista said.

CMS is suing the Office of the Mayor and Camacho to collect on $36,126.25 that it said represents unpaid material that exceed the community benefit agreement required by its Temporary Occupancy Agreement.

CMS, a quarry operator at the Kannat Tabla quarry, is asking the Superior Court to compel Camacho and the Saipan municipality to pay $36,126.25, along with the legal costs associated with the lawsuit.

CMS explained in their lawsuit that the amount had reached this sum after Camacho and the Saipan Mayor's Office not only received base course material that exceeded the 100 cubic yards approved by DPL under the public benefit requirement of its permit, but the mayor's office also ordered 7.5 cubic yards of aggregates—parts of which constituted processed material. These aggregates, CMS said, are not included in the public benefit agreement, and all agencies must pay for this material.

The CMS lawsuit was filed on Oct. 18, 2023, by CMS and their lawyer, Robert Torres.

STRAY

From page 1

Because if this unsustainable situation, it is in the animals' and community's best interest to have access to the proper and most humane way to euthanize, Grace Keilbach said.

The Keilbach sisters appeared before the House of Representatives Health and Welfare Committee during a hearing Monday to express their support for House Bill 23-34, which aims to establish and authorize the use of legend drugs and controlled substances for euthanasia by animal control agencies and humane societies. A legend drug is approved by the Food and Drug Administration for prescription by a licensed provider.

Authored by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), he stated that the purpose of his bill is to relieve animals of unnecessary suffering from disease, illness, or injury and provide appropriate trained personnel with a painless method for handling this difficult task.

Grace Keilbach said the bill would significantly improve animal welfare and is the first of many steps that need to be taken in order to make the islands a better place for all who call it home.

She said Boonie Babies aims to help with the stray dog population, but access to the use of legend drugs and controlled substances for euthanasia across the CNMI is a crucial step in managing the stray dog population in the most humane way possible.

Currently, she said, there is limited access to euthanasia, leading to unnecessary animal suffering.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MAGOFNA

From page 1

Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday.

"That's one of the key elements to any business succeeding and staying in business," she said.

The senator, who previously served as acting CUC chief financial officer, said it's standard business practice to reconcile the books every month.

"You don't even have to wait six months to a year," said Magofna.

She disclosed that she was "very shocked" to find out when she first started working at CUC that their financial statements were generated annually.

"For a corporation that generates over $100 million in revenues and you don't have your financial statements until the end of the fiscal year—who does business that way?" asked the senator.

It's no wonder why CUC has been in the red for so many years, she added.

Magofna said she got a lot of push back from CUC's accounting because they said it couldn't be done.

She said she asserted that there's no way they could not generate a monthly financial statement.

If Fortune 500 companies are generating their financial statements every month within just three days, there's no reason why CUC can't do it, Magofna said.

"And lo and behold, we were able to do it!" she said.

She recalled they started with 15 days, but then managed to bring it down to about 10 days—at least when she was still there.

The senator said she does not know how it is right now at CUC, but the fact that they were able to see that they could prepare, generate, and prepare a financial statement on a monthly basis was a huge accomplishment.

Magofna said it was mind-boggling to find out that CUC was operating in such a way where they didn't even know where they stood financially.

She said CUC is now in a better position to understand where it stands financially, but she's hearing that reconciliations are not being done in a timely manner. She hopes they prioritize that because that is one of the biggest failures of any business.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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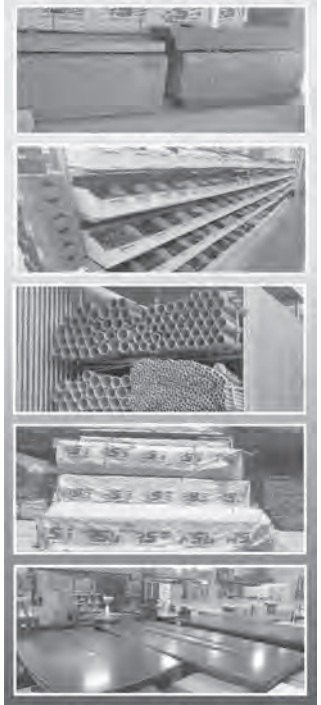
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CPA names new Saipan airport manager

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After nearly a year since the Saipan airport manager position became vacant, the Commonwealth Ports Authority has finally chosen Frank Dueñas to take on the role, albeit in a temporary capacity.

CPA executive director Leo Tudela said he chose Dueñas for the post after going over his background.

"I had people talk to me about him and I researched his background. I got his résumé and, after reviewing it, I thought he would be beneficial to CPA," he said.

Dueñas is a former deputy commissioner at the Department of Corrections.

Tudela said that Dueñas, who started only last Monday, was hired on a temporary basis only, circumventing the process of publicly announcing the position for others to apply.

"We didn't do a [job vacancy announcement] process before hiring Dueñas because he will only be serving in a temporary capacity. It's not a regular, permanent position. We will post a JVA for the position but we needed to fill the position temporarily right away," he said.

Although Dueñas has no experience working at CPA, Tudela believes his experience in law enforcement will be beneficial when it comes to the Ports Police Division and the Airport Rescue and Firefighting Division.

"I believe he has never worked with CPA before, but he is a fast learner and he is very reliable [in the sense] that he doesn't want to wait until tomorrow. We have to give him a chance. He has been a deputy commissioner so he knows the administration, he is also trained in law enforcement so that will be beneficial to the Ports Police and the firefighting [divisions]. Those two units are critical to the ports because, in case of an emergency, the first units we call is the Airport Firefighting unit and the Port Police. That particular portion of the job is very important," Tudela said.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Leo Tudela speaks during a recent board meeting.

When asked about the Rota Ports manager position, Tudela said that that position has not been filled and is currently posted for the public to apply.

"For Rota, we are in the process of advertising the position," he said.

The Saipan airport manager position became vacant when airport manager Edward Mendiola was promoted to CPA deputy executive director. He resigned in July.

The former Rota Ports manager, Sharlene M. Manglona, resigned in August.

Back in September, former CPA executive director Chris Tenorio nearly named a new Saipan airport manager and Rota Ports manager, but later rescinded his selection after the CPA board raised some concerns.

CPA's Human Resource division initially selected former Department of Public Safety commissioner Robert A. Guerrero to be the new Saipan airport manager, while former Saipan ports manager Rodney James S.N. Taisacan was initially selected to become the new Rota Ports manager.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Kuen-Hee Han, Petitioner
VS
Je Seong Oh, Respondent,
: FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0385
: SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PO box 502134, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

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20R263	2020 HYUNDAI VELOSTER	$10,000	$9,995
16P446	2016 MAZDA 3	$6,000	$10,995
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~~22M075A~~	~~2015 GENESIS G80~~ SOLD	~~$12,000~~	~~$12,995~~
22H219A	2016 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SPORT	$3,000	$12,995
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18P405	2018 HYUNDAI ELANTRA	$5,000	$13,995
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22H161A	2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON	$5,000	$16,995
19P479	2019 HYUNDAI TUCSON	$5,000	$16,995

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STK: 16P433

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STK: 14P342B

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18P392	2018 MAZDA CX-3 SPORT	$5,000	$16,995
19P340A	2018 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT	$6,000	$16,995
17P422	2017 KIA SPORTAGE	$5,000	$16,995
22M021A	2019 MAZDA 6 GRAND TOURING	$8,000	$17,995
20P503	2020 MAZDA CX-3 SPORT	$5,000	$17,995
22M050A	2018 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE	$9,000	$18,995
18P397	2019 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT	$6,000	$18,995
18P416	2018 TOYOTA RAV 4 LE	$8,000	$18,995
16P387	2016 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LE	$7,000	$18,995
17P482	2017 KIA SEDONA	$9,000	$18,995
22M032A	2018 HONDA CIVIC	$4,000	$18,995
18P398	2018 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING	$5,000	$18,995
20P476	2020 MAZDA 3 HB PREMIUM	$9,000	$19,995
20P423	2020 MAZDA 6 TOURING	$9,000	$19,995
16P434	2016 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER SR5 4WD	$6,000	$27,995
17P409	2017 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER SR5 4WD	$7,000	$28,995
18P411	2018 TOYOTA 4 RUNNER SR5 4WD	$6,000	$29,995
16P501	2016 TOYOTA TACOMA	$5,000	$29,995
18P478	2018 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED 4WD	$8,000	$29,995

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‘Separating power, water will drive up costs’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Separating the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.’s power and water systems will drive up costs that will then be passed on to customers, according to Kevin Watson, CUC’s deputy executive director for the Water and Wastewater Division.

“There would be no way around it,” he said during a Senate Public Utilities, Transportation & Communications Committee meeting on Tuesday.

In the committee’s deliberation on Senate Bill 23-29, which aims to split CUC into two to separately manage the power and water service systems, Watson said that splitting power and water systems into two and having two human resources managers and two accounting divisions wouldn’t be an efficient way to run the business.

S.B. 23-29 was authored by Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota). It seeks to replace CUC with two independent autonomous public corporations, but create one elected consolidated board for the two entities.

In response to questions from Manglona, who also chairs the committee, acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje said the shared administrative expenses would be one concern.

“Like the Human Resources, how do we charge their expenses to power and water? I mean, right now we do that for allocation purposes,” Terlaje said.

For instance, some departments share vehicles.

“So if you’re going to sever today, then I need to know if the meter readers [will] go with power or water. Or if we split them, we’d still need to hire more for each division because it takes that much to read the routes. …We’d have to buy more vehicles,” Terlaje said.

As for the technology devices that are used to read the meters, Terlaje said the question is which side will inherit the devices—the power side or the water side?

“We pay for the building. How do we split the building up? We have current grants for a building. Is that going to be for power or for water now?” Terlaje asked.

She said it will get messy unless they get a cash infusion right away to resolve those immediate items that need to be taken care of to allow for continuous operation.

As for the proposed elected board, Terlaje said it will come down to who is best equipped to manage the corporation.

“Whoever sits up there, whether it’s an elected person or the governor’s appointee, we always want the best person to represent and be neutral and act in the best interest of the Commonwealth. So, either way it goes,” Terlaje said.

Saipan son awarded $10K as Rotary Club of Tokyo-Atago Scholar

UOG
Ivan Blanco, a University of Guam junior in the School of Business and Public Administration, is this year’s Rotary Club of Tokyo-Atago Scholar. From left, Dr. Sharleen Santos Bamba, UOG interim senior vice president and provost; and Dr. Anita Borja Enriquez, UOG president; Blanco; Sen. Tina Muna Barnes, vice speaker; Dr. Lawrence Camacho, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success; and Mark Duarte, director of the UOG Financial Aid Office; gather for a photo on Nov. 7, 2023.

University of Guam junior Ivan Sablan Blanco is the new Rotary Club of Tokyo-Atago Scholar.

The scholarship comes with $10,000 that would go toward the completion of his degree in Business Administration and is the latest support provided to a UOG student from the Rotary International District 2750 and from clubs under its umbrella. Rotary International District 2750 covers Rotary clubs in Western Tokyo and Pacific Basin Group clubs in Guam, Saipan, and other parts of the Micronesia region.

“We are immensely grateful to Rotary International District 2750 for their continued support,” said UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez. “These Rotarian scholarships provide assistance for students like Mr. Blanco to pursue career goals and also contribute to the development of the future professional workforce of Guam and the region.”

UOG aims to help its students afford college, in part by matching them with scholarship donors who look at the totality of a student’s character, Enriquez added.

During the interview phase, Blanco showed knowledge of the Micronesia region and the problems the region faces, said Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba, UOG interim senior vice president and provost.

Raised on Saipan, Blanco also highlights his heritage from Chuuk and Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. He is the namesake of his dad, a beloved Saipan lawmaker who passed away after a sudden illness at the age of 44 in 2021. Blanco juggles his job as a legislative policy advisor in vice speaker Tina Muna Barnes’ office and taking academic classes. He faces one more academic year before graduating.

Barnes mentioned Blanco’s role in helping coordinate the recent Association of Pacific Island Legislatures conference as an example of the scholarship awardee’s leadership skills.

Blanco expressed gratitude to his family, mentors, Rotary International District 2750, and for UOG’s support. He aspires to bridge gaps between the islands in the Micronesia region. ***(UOG)***

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INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-004-24
SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 24, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

“SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ONE UNIT BRAND NEW SUV FOR CPA SAIPAN SEAPORT OFFICE”

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING OCTOBER 23, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER’S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED “SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW SUV FOR CPA SAIPAN SEAPORT OFFICE **(IFB-004-24)**” TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., NOVEMBER 24, 2023. **A 10% BID GUARANTY IN THE FORM OF A BID BOND OR CASHIER’S CHECK SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS.** BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2024

Opening date: November 24, 2023 Closing date: December 22, 2023

Location: SAIPAN	SALARY
Position(s): (1) Saipan Airport Manager	$70,000 (UNGRADED)
(1) Comptroller	$80,000 (UNGRADED)

Location: ROTA	SALARY
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Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 10:00AM at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual public participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: hhtps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of September 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW
1) CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2023-102
Project: CONSTRUCTION OF 42 UNITS HOUSING PROJECT
Applicant: MR. TING JIANG TANG DBA CANAAN REALTY, LLC.
The Canaan Realty, LLC is proposing to construct 42 Units Housing Rentals. The development includes office units, recreational rooms, community center, onsite laundry facility, mom and pop store, security house and fence. The project is situated on leased private lands identified as Lot Nos. 361-3, 361-4, 361-5, 361-6, TR 22553 and TR 22554-3 in As Lito, Saipan.
a. Project Presentation by Applicant
b. Agencies’ Discussions
c. Agencies’ Determination – Certification of Completeness

IV. OTHER MATTERS
1) Final adoption of Proposed Amendments to NMIAC Chapter 15-10 to Revise Permitting Fees (45 Com. Reg. 50257 (Aug. 28, 2023)).
2) Authorization for DCRM Director to promulgate proposed regulation amendments.
3) Final adoption of Proposed Amendments to NMIAC Chapter 15-10 to Revise Permit Application and Amendment Procedures (45 Com. Reg. 50476 (Sept. 28, 2023)).
4) Authorization for DCRM Director to promulgate proposed regulation amendments.
5) Final adoption of Proposed Amendments to NMIAC Chapter 15-20 to Revise the Designated Area for Towed Floatation (45 Com. Reg. 50277 (Aug. 28, 2023)).
6) Authorization for DCRM Director to promulgate proposed regulation amendments.

V. ADJOURNMENT
All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM

NMC's Fife highlights indigenous rights in ABA webinar

Northern Marianas College associate professor William Fife recently participated in a webinar panel hosted by the American Bar Association Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice, and discussed new perspectives and solutions to the unique challenges faced by Americans in U.S. territories, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Fife

The webinar's title was, "125 Years of Empire: Examining the Separate and Unequal Status of U.S. Territories."

Fife's portion of the panel discussion considered legal solutions to American second-class citizenship and systemic racism stemming from the *Insular Cases*. His recent Indigenous rights-based publications written with his co-author, NMC professor Beylul Solomon, were the basis for his participation in the ABA webinar to represent a voice from the CNMI, as he spoke from his own personal capacity and not on behalf of NMC or the CNMI government.

"Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at local and federal levels provides legal Indigenous land rights protections that could unite the CNMI and American Samoa to 'denounce the *Insular Cases'*, thereby enhancing territorial solidarity as a consensus signal for Congress and [U.S. Supreme Court] to take action," Fife said.

According to Fife, this "action" would include overturning the notoriously racist *Insular Cases*, and if UNDRIP-based legislation became the law at local and federal levels, arguments that the CNMI needs the *Insular Cases* to keep Indigenous land rights law Article 12 alive could become unnecessary. UNDRIP-based legislation at local and federal levels could also provide protections for Indigenous land rights should the Insular Cases be overturned as has been recently proposed by bipartisan justices at the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Amicus briefs filed on behalf of Indigenous peoples in the CNMI and American Samoa paradoxically argue to keep systemic racism alive because they believe the Insular Cases creates legal space for Indigenous land rights to exist," Fife stated.

However, to address systemic racism and second-class citizenship root and stem, Fife said it would require going beyond just the Insular Cases to address what he and Solomon describe as the "*Discovery Cases*"—active case law rulings that rely upon the Doctrine of Discovery, which include the foundational *Johnson v. M'Intosh* (1823) and the *Insular Cases*.

"There are no Insular Cases without *Johnson v. M'Intosh*, and no *Johnson v. M'Intosh* without the legal foundation for colonialism: the Vatican's Doctrine of Discovery," said Fife.

Fife also highlighted the need for "Truth and Reconciliation" in addition to UNDRIP-based legislation as solutions to the more than a hundred years of second-class citizenship in the territories.

Using international case studies of South Africa and Canada for both solutions, Fife discussed a potential range of "Truth & Reconciliation" outcomes. From a "territorial curriculum" to educate American students about the racist history and realities of second-class citizenship in U.S. territories, to possible reparations to address the living legacies of genocidal colonialism, the goal would be healing through public education and legislation, thereby creating greater self-determination space to grow in all territories in the democratic manner of their choosing.

"We cannot settle for the status quo. Our resilient youth, who also suffer from suicide rate disparities and dire mental health issues rooted in intergenerational trauma, deserve to know a world is possible where their cultural survival is not dependent upon our American government referring to them as 'savages' and 'uncivilized alien races,'" Fife said.

Productive NMC collaborators

Fife and Solomon collaborated on two publications that utilize Indigenous rights in the Marianas. "Indigenous Rights: A Pathway *to End American Second-Class Citizenship*" covers regional, national, and international legal and political issues in USC's Review of Law and Social Justice.

Their first collaboration, "*Indigenous Rights: A Vehicle to Address Mental Health and Academic Outcomes in the CNMI*," discussed how to improve local disparities in the textbook, "*Learning and Reconciliation Through Indigenous Education in Oceania*." Both publications focus on the importance of cultural identity "to heal the ongoing legacies of systemic racism and intergenerational trauma."

Solomon received the Northern Marianas Humanities Council 2022 Governor's Award for Research and Publication as lead author of "*Indigenous Rights: A Vehicle to Address Mental Health and Academic Outcomes in the CNMI*." Solomon was also the recipient of the 2023 NMC Faculty of the Year Award.

This year, Fife received the Northern Marianas Humanities Council 2023 Governor's Award for Outstanding Humanities Teacher in a Classroom Setting from his Socratic Method-based teaching style that focuses on critical thinking and empowering students through strengthening cultural identity.

In addition to the ABA webinar panel presentation, this past October, Fife attended the "Summit on U.S. Colonialism" in New York City (sponsored by the U.S. territories advocacy group Right to Democracy and the Ford Foundation), where he led breakout sessions on "International Law and Indigenous Rights."

Fife and Solomon also presented their research publications at the Marianas History Conference "*Healing the Wounds of History*" in September.

Fife received his J.D. in 2013. He worked as a legal aid attorney with Micronesian Legal Services Corp. and as a teacher at Kagman High School before joining NMC as an associate professor in the Social Sciences and Fine Arts Department. Solomon received her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology in 2009 and is currently a professor at NMC's School of Education. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Biden policy on Iran is an utter mess

Iran is getting richer and increasingly dangerous during the Biden presidency. This has enabled the country to more aggressively arm its Middle East terrorist proxies who seek to destroy Israel.

On Thursday, the head of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp blustered that Israel would face more attacks like the atrocities of Oct. 7. "Just as the al-Aqsa Storm came from a place the enemy did not calculate," he said, "they must wait for other storms that will reach them from where they do not figure out."

At the same time, an Iranian military commander has told Hamas that his country will not allow Israel to "reach its dirty goals" of defeating Hamas, The Associated Press reported recently. That certainly sounds like a threat of escalation.

It's fair to ask how much the White House's appeasement of Iran has endangered the region and emboldened bad actors who openly admit their goal of wiping Israel off the map.

According to The Washington Post, the International Monetary Fund estimates that Iran's foreign currency reserves have jumped 50 percent in the past two years. Much of this is oil money. The Trump administration put harsh oil sanctions on Iran. President Joe Biden relaxed them once he took office, leading to an increase in exports, primarily to China. The Iranian government and the terrorists of Hamas and Hezbollah have been the beneficiaries.

The Biden administration recently announced it would now "enforce oil sanctions against Iran amid the renewed conflict in the Middle East" in an effort to financially squeeze the country, Reuters reported. Fair enough, but that doesn't undo 30 months of ignoring the problem.

In fact, Iran of late has increased oil production at a rate higher than the United States, The Wall Street Journal noted last month, making the country's primary resource even more valuable in the world market. Biden has been openly hostile to domestic energy producers in an effort to satisfy green extremists. As gasoline prices soared above $5 a gallon, he even asked our enemies—including Iran—to ramp up production rather than turn loose America's own producers.

All of this has been a boon for the mullahs in Tehran as they bankroll Israel's enemies.

In September, the Biden administration even agreed to release $6 billion in cash to Iran as part of a prisoner exchange deal. The windfall was supposed to be for "humanitarian" purposes, but money is fungible, and the move would have made it easier for Iran to fund terror. The White House wisely put a freeze on the funds shortly after the Oct. 7 attacks on Israel, but the initial decision demonstrated a woeful lack of judgment.

Likewise for the administration's decision to re-issue a sanctions waiver that allows Iran access to another $10 billion generated by the nation's electricity shipments to Iraq. Again, despite the "humanitarian" intent, the money will make it easier for Iran to arm and support terrorists. "Iran sends $700 million to Hezbollah and at least $100

See BIDEN on Page 11

The making of a president's most special adviser

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

When Charles Hammer, a theoretical physicist at Iowa State University, dialed the Georgia telephone number he was told to call in 1975—at precisely the time he was told to call it—he had every reason to assume he was calling the campaign office of Georgia's little-known ex-governor who was running for president.

So he was ready to introduce himself to any functionary who answered—and say he'd decided to sign on to Jimmy Carter's long-shot Iowa caucus campaign committee.

"Hi, Charlie. How's Hazel?" Surprised, Hammer recognized the soft southern drawl. It was Rosalynn Carter. He'd dialed their home phone in Plains, Georgia. He was doubly surprised when Mrs. Carter remembered his wife, Hazel. They'd all met only once, very briefly, two weeks earlier in a little Iowa town called Atlantic (which is half a continent away from the ocean but right on the shore of the East Nishnabotna River). And he was surprised once more when Mrs. Carter mentioned that Hazel said she had a brother in Michigan. Mrs. Carter asked for his name and address and later wrote a note asking the brother if he'd help when the Carter campaign got to Michigan.

Jimmy Carter was always fond of telling writers about how Rosalynn, who died Sunday at age 96 after being diagnosed with dementia, was such a quiet and shy—even "timid"—girl when they first dated in Plains. Indeed, when Carter first ran for governor, he famously felt the need to push his wife to campaign by talking with people.

But there certainly was nothing "timid" about Rosalynn Carter by the time I got to know the Carters, while covering the 1976 campaign and their White House years for Newsday, The Washington Post and while writing a book, "Running for President 1976." She remained soft-spoken and reserved, but had become a confident quiet campaigner, known for being kind and caring.

Part of Rosalynn Carter's evolution came during the earliest days of that unusual campaign—when Carter asked his wife to campaign without him, on a special assignment.

As always, Carter and his strategists were positioning him as the man-in-the-middle. To his left in Campaign '76, were liberals including the most impressive Rep. Mo Udall of Arizona. To his right was Alabama's former Gov. George Wallace, who was campaigning, once again. So, in April 1975, Carter asked his wife and their friend, Edna Langford, to go into the heart of George Wallace country—in the northwest panhandle of Florida, which would be a key primary state in 1976.

"Jimmy just told us to go to Florida and make friends," Langford recalled. "Make friends in George Wallace's territory and show them that there was an alternative. So that's what we did."

The two women traveled on a lonely trek through the most Alabama-like small towns of Florida's panhandle. They walked into the offices of the local newspapers and radio stations, unannounced. They ended up in news photos on front pages, with Rosalynn holding a Carter bumper sticker. At radio stations they sometimes wrote down questions someone there could ask them. In Panama City, they walked in on a Rotary Club meeting and became a news story. The liberal candidates didn't campaign much in Florida—and Carter beat Wallace and carried that key state.

As Charlie Hammer and so many others discovered in that 1976 campaign and ever after, Mrs. Carter quietly accomplished what she set out to do. She mostly got things done—her way. But not always. Like all campaign advisers, there were occasions when she was overruled. One occurred when Carter and his advisers discovered what all candidates discover at times: They craft a careful message strategy based on a speech, the candidate delivers the speech. But then someone puts a mic in the candidate's face, asks a question on something totally different. The candidate answers it—and THAT becomes the story. And that carefully crafted speech is forgotten.

Rosalynn had pressed her husband to simply not answer unwanted questions. "What I tried to get him to do was not answer the questions," Rosalynn told me in 1976. "…Do your thing and leave. But he didn't do it."

It was as a first lady that Rosalynn Carter made by far her most legendary achievement. She became a crusader for one of our most vital, yet neglected, causes—mental health. She focused public attention—and our news media's coverage—on mental health. She made treating mental health problems a matter of national urgency.

And in the process, she did one thing more for us all:

Rosalynn Carter will be remembered for having given dignity to millions of people who once felt embarrassed to say they suffer from this prevalent and very treatable public health problem. We remain forever grateful.

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We must not repeat post-9/11 Islamophobia in our discourse on the Israel-Hamas war

By SARA HAGHDOOSTI
Chicago Tribune

Sara Haghdoosti is executive director at Win Without War, a public education and advocacy coalition, and lives in the Chicago area.

In the days, weeks and months after the Sept. 11 attacks, as President George W. Bush's administration launched its so-called war on terror, nearly all space for nuance, dissent and debate in the United States was quickly eradicated. When we most needed to ask ourselves the tough questions, listen to those questioning the conventional wisdom and consider the long-term consequences of our actions, doing so was nearly impossible in Washington, in the media and public discourse.

Today, history is repeating itself. This time we know better, and there's no excuse to not stop it.

Hamas' heinous attacks and the Israeli government's response—collective punishment of 2 million people in Gaza—have created one of the most combustible and escalatory moments in the Middle East in a half-century. With nearly 10,000 Palestinians already dead, according to the health ministry in Gaza, and many more injured and countless at risk, we cannot afford to continue making the same mistakes.

Here in the United States, we've already seen a 6-year-old be brutally killed because someone couldn't tell the difference between a child and Hamas. Recently, an event to bring together Arab Americans to talk about empowerment in Orlando was canceled by their hotel allegedly because of security concerns. This isn't a one-off. We're seeing a string of events in which Arab and Muslim communities are being forced to cancel community gatherings because of violent threats.

We're already seeing calls in Florida to ban pro-Palestinian groups from colleges, and alarmingly, the Anti-Defamation League has urged university administrators to investigate pro-Palestinian groups on campus for the possibility of providing material support for terrorism. We saw this happen after Sept. 11. We know the harm it caused then, and we can't afford to do the same thing again.

That's why, in this context, more than ever it's critical that the president of the United States, every administration official and congressional leaders discuss this conflict responsibly and in a way that doesn't reinforce the insidious conflation of Hamas with Arab Americans and Muslims. The expectation that a government, especially a democratic one, would ensure that its words don't silence or put the safety of communities at risk is the bare minimum we should expect.

Unfortunately, recent comments by National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby, who said that a cease-fire really "only benefits Hamas," fail to meet that minimum. The ask for a cease-fire is coming from major humanitarian organizations, a broad cross-section of civil society, including some in Israel, as well as Muslim, Jewish and Arab communities in the United States and around the world. They have demanded a cease-fire because they want to see human suffering in Gaza end. They also believe that the current strategy of the Israeli government will not eradicate Hamas any more than the two decades of the war on terror eradicated terrorist groups like al-Qaida.

In reality, the war on terror created a breeding ground for more extreme groups such as the Islamic State group to form and led to a proliferation of terrorism that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, others in the administration are also constraining public debate and obfuscating conditions on the ground. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre also appeared to accidentally equate protesters registering dissent with the Israeli government's approach with the horrific white supremacist protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia. While this was most probably unintentional, it still is unacceptable.

And perhaps most concerning of all, President Joe Biden said that when it came to the death toll in Gaza, he had "no confidence in the number that the Palestinians are using." Yes, the president has said several times that Hamas and the people in Palestine are not one and the same. But these remarks are nothing more than platitudes when hours or days later, he appears to dismiss or minimize the undisputed reality that thousands of people in Gaza, including a horrific number of children, have been killed in the Israeli government's ongoing military operations.

Right now, we are facing a highly sensitive moment in which one horrific war in Gaza could spread into a regional conflict with direct or indirect U.S. support or involvement. We need clear debate, the ability to dissent without being criminalized and the consistent condemnation of accusations of "terrorist sympathies" against critics, especially Muslim Americans. These false attacks on the very dissent and debate we so desperately need are a clear echo of what we heard all too often during the global war on terror. We know the cost of silence, and the price is far too high.

The immediate focus must be saving lives. Using Islamophobic and racist tropes, even accidentally, in ways that silence debate, on a public stage, prevents that from happening—both in Gaza and here in the United States. When events are fast-moving, many officials often make mistakes. However, the number of times these mistakes have happened and continue to occur by the Biden administration while the threats of violence and censorship of communities continue to increase is unacceptable and creates the appearance of not caring enough to hold themselves to a higher standard.

I'm delighted that the Biden administration has announced the first-ever commitment to a national strategy to tackle Islamophobia—now more than ever, it's critically needed.

Is nuance still possible in an angry, polarized world?

By JUDE DUMFEH
Chicago Tribune

Dr. Jude Dumfeh is trained in internal medicine and pediatrics and currently works as a hospitalist at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park.

We humans are tempted to attack anything that appears foreign to us. As psychologist Abraham Maslow observed, when you have only a hammer, you're inclined to look at everything as if it's a nail. This unfortunate tendency often stems from a lack of nuance.

Our world has become more polarized. We tend to see things in black or white, with little ability to handle shades of gray. It seems easy to stay in our silos and hurl attacks in other directions.

An ability to see nuance, on the other hand, allows us to engage with each other with critical thinking that challenges but allows for other viewpoints, while affording empathy to others.

Nuanced thinking is difficult to do well. It's much easier to see things in binaries: good or bad, beautiful or ugly, liberal or conservative. It feels safe to remain in our preconceived lanes without having to engage with what seems alien to us. It's in our nature to make sense of the world by categorizing, which allows us to create order and approach a world that can be disorienting.

We run up against problems when we encounter people and situations that don't fit our neatly packaged boxes. We either try to make them fit and get frustrated with our failures, or retreat further into our own boxes. We embrace what is familiar and condemn whatever seems peculiar without much thought. Dialogue becomes difficult, and paradoxes are like foreign languages to us.

Unfortunately, in an attempt to avoid thinking in binaries, we can fall into the trap of not standing for anything or being wishy-washy. We try to accommodate and appease everyone's viewpoint by going with the flow. No one knows where we stand on any issue or what we stand for, as we play to the gallery for approval. We end up losing our integrity and conform to whatever is most immediate to us. We then lose the ability to have any meaningful impact, as people see through our facade.

We have to be able to sit with discomfort and not look for easy solutions if we are to have a nuanced and impactful worldview. We may not come to an agreement, but with good nuance, we can have a deep understanding and appreciation for the viewpoint that is starkly different from ours.

For example, the issue of abortion is a topic that sharply divides many in our society. The pro-abortion rights person may consider the anti-abortion rights person as someone who just wants to take away the rights of women to make decisions for their own bodies, such as forcing women to carry pregnancies to term even in cases of rape, incest or endangerment of the mother's health.

The anti-abortion rights person, on the other hand, may feel they have to protect the life and rights of the unborn baby. Each group can condemn the other, using harmful extremes.

A nuanced viewpoint could lead to a better understanding of each perspective. Could the pro-abortion rights person fight for the rights of women to make decisions about pregnancies, while acknowledging that we are dealing with the delicate issue of the life of a vulnerable unborn baby? The pro-abortion rights individual can also acknowledge that the rights of women to make decisions about their pregnancies has to be protected. And they may also consider that the person contemplating abortion may be dealing with a difficult and often traumatic life decision, brought on by many complicated factors.

When we seek understanding and humanize our opponent, even though our views may not change, we develop insight and empathy that build connection. That enables dialogue and understanding, leading to potential solutions to the most challenging problems.

We have to think outside the box, if we are to approach complex life issues with nuance. It's important to critically examine our own viewpoints and confront our biases and blind spots. It's critical to develop the ability to embrace paradoxes and to realize that two seemingly opposite things can coexist and be true. It's essential to have well-founded convictions that are not easily swayed by popular opinion. Yet we have to embrace the desire for constant growth, which fuels the desire to broaden our horizons.

Embracing nuance allows empathy to be foundational to our relationships. We don't have to agree with our opponents to catch a glimpse of life from their side of the aisle. In this way, life becomes fuller, and challenging situations become opportunities for growth and understanding.

Our differences don't have to make us shudder. But rather, they can serve as opportunities to reach out to touch, and be touched by, another, in a way that draws us out to the edge of ourselves, challenging growth in new and refreshing ways.

BIDEN

From page 10

million to Palestinian terrorists annually," according to the Journal. Reuters reports that Iran sent $300 million to Hamas last year.

Against this backdrop, one thing remains clear. American efforts to accommodate Iran—dating back to the Obama administration, in which Biden served as vice president—have made the world a more dangerous place.

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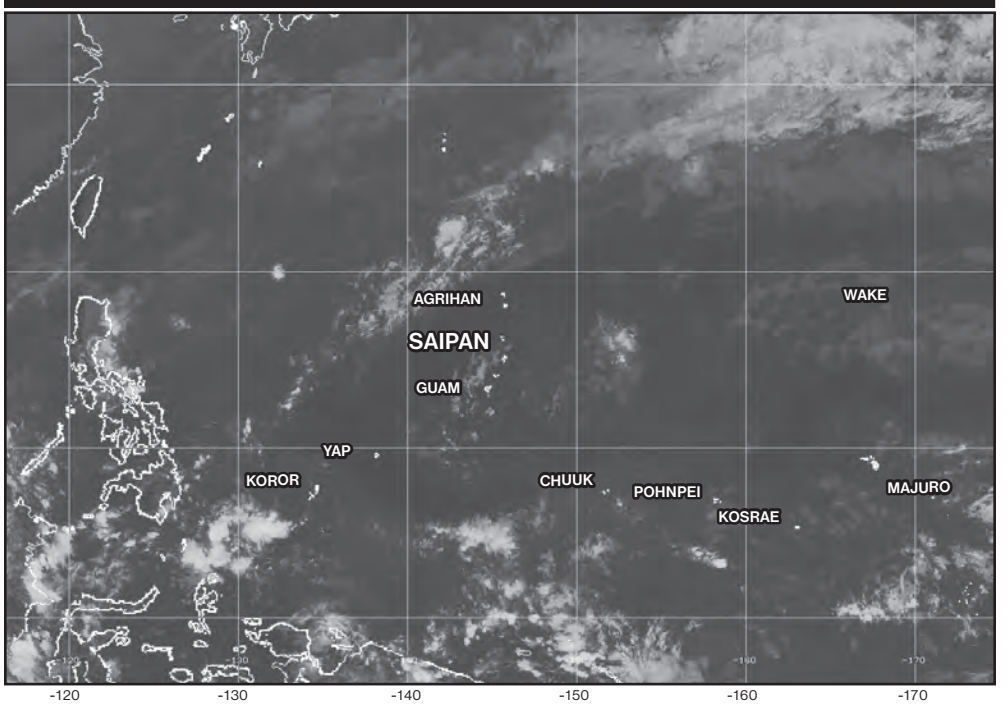
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
88 / 78°	88 / 78°	88 / 78°	88 / 78°	88 / 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:11 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar showing increasing showers this morning with an upper-level low approaching from the east. Lightning has also been observed. Bumped shower coverage to low-end scattered today for Guam and Rota. Also included isolated thunderstorms for all the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Sunny	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Sunny	86° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Sunday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:04 AM	3:15 PM
Saturday	-	4:00 AM	3:57 PM
Sunday	-	4:58 AM	4:42 PM
Monday	-	5:57 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	-	6:57 AM	6:22 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	64° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 25°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 72°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 73°
London	Cloudy	54° / 48°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	80° / 72°
New York	Mostly Sunny	49° / 39°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	59° / 45°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	50° / 41°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	63° / 39°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°
Salem	Sunny	66° / 42°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 50°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	43° / 25°
Tokyo	Cloudy	59° / 46°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	52° / 36°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:18 AM	High Tide	1.48
10:57 AM	Low Tide	0.53
5:04 PM	High Tide	1.91
-	-	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2023

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Oct 21-31, 2023
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

UOG

Starsand Technologies co-founder Ann Dela Cruz, a native of Guam, speaks at the discussion on 3D Printing Concrete as an affordable solution to Guam's housing needs. More than 100 people attended the roundtable on Nov. 7, 2023, at the School of Business and Public Administration, University of Guam.

UOG

The University of Guam hosts a roundtable about 3D Printing as a solution to Guam's affordable housing challenge. Industry experts on 3D printing concrete houses were featured at the roundtable on Nov. 13, 2023. Speaking is Dr. Ernesto Guades, assistant professor at the School of Engineering, who discussed initial research at UOG to recycle demolished concrete into sand and gravel for pavements and other non-structural uses.

UOG hosts roundtable on using 3D printers to build concrete homes

With Guam experiencing a shortage of affordable houses, the University of Guam recently hosted a roundtable discussion about a potential housing solution that will be quicker than traditional builds, and potentially cost-effective.

The solution? Using robots to build concrete homes. It's not as futuristic as it sounds. Commonly called 3D concrete printing, the technology has led to the development of 3D printed concrete houses in parts of the United States, Japan and Germany, among other nations.

"Solving Guam's housing affordability challenges will result in more Guam families staying on the island instead of leaving for more affordable cost of living," said UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez, as she welcomed more than 100 guests who attended the roundtable on Nov. 17 at the School of Business and Public Administration.

Dr. Ernesto Guades, assistant professor at the University of Guam School of Engineering (https://www.uog.edu/schools-and-colleges/school-of-engineering/) also presented research at the School of Engineering to reuse old concrete waste from demolished buildings and recycle them for gravel and sand that can be used for paving and other construction projects.

The roundtable, coordinated through UOG's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, offered perspectives from experts who are already in the business of either printing concrete homes or using 3D technology to manufacturer on-demand parts for businesses and the military.

James Lyman, CEO of Mudbots 3D Concrete Printers USA, which offers concrete printers that can build tiny homes to custom homes and industrial buildings, said 3D concrete printing technology can significantly reduce the cost of construction because of savings in time, materials and labor, among other factors.

Adrian Sinclair, co-founder of Starsand Technologies, an angel investor who also is a civilian innovator at YokoWerx, an Air Force innovation lab, saw the potential for the technology to work in Guam.

Sinclair partnered with Starsand Technologies co-founder Ann Dela Cruz, a Guam native, Army veteran and real estate businesswoman who came back to the island after having been away for 25 years. Called home to help with her family's business succession, she got drawn to helping find an affordable housing solution for Guam residents.

"I found myself asking this question: Is it possible that additive construction, which is a fancy term for 3D concrete printing, can be a solution to our affordable housing crisis? And if so, what are the next steps?" Dela Cruz said. Community engagement was one of them.

Dela Cruz had a meeting with Dr. Pamela Peralta, UOG interim vice provost, Research and Sponsored Programs, which led to the university hosting the roundtable.

There are issues to overcome, including convincing banks and other lenders, home insurance companies and government regulators, according to affordable housing proponents at the roundtable.

Proponents of affordable housing expressed optimism that further community discussions will lead to resolving the challenges. ***(UOG)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
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Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) hereby gives notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Office Conference Room, on Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (07/26/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  A. Executive Director's Contract Renewal
  B. Upcoming Vacancy on the Board – Tinian Representative
VII. Director's Report
  A. FY2024 Annual Budget
  B. Financial Report – BPL Revolving Fund
  C. Office Operations
  D. Online Payment Update
  E. 2023 Citizens Centric Report
  F. Upcoming National Boards Zoning and Annual Meetings for 2024
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
    1. Memo from SAA for Fiscal Restraint
    2. Directive 2024-001 – Modification of Government Hours for the Executive Branch
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business
  A. EA Regulations Update
XI. New Business
  A. Violations of Laws and BPL Regulations (§ 125-20.1-1001)
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

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ONE (1) MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

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DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Diploma/GED or Foreign equivalent is acceptable;
- Minimum of 24 months or 2 years-experience in HVAC installation and repair; and
- EPA Certification required.

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UOG breaks ground for Nursing Annex, WERI buildings

UOG

University of Guam president Anita Borja Enriquez, first from left, and acting governor Josh Tenorio, third from left, are among officials who participated in the groundbreaking for the construction of the two-story the Margaret Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health Annex, and the three-story Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific facility. The groundbreaking occurred on campus on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023.

UOG

The rendering of the three-story Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific facility.

The University of Guam and its partners celebrated the groundbreaking of two new buildings on Monday, Nov. 20, marking a turning point for two projects that overcame a host of challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, rising cost of construction, regulatory processes, and funding constraints.

The first project is the construction of a new three-story research facility for the Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific. It will include state-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms on 13,000 square feet of floor space and will meet the needs of WERI's role in the region monitoring freshwater quality and research.

The second project is the Margaret Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health Nursing Annex, which is dedicated to the school's beloved dean who championed the growth of health professionals in Guam and the region until she passed away in December 2022. The annex will expand the university's capacity for Nursing majors with additional laboratories and classrooms on 12,000 square feet of floor space.

"With these two new facilities, we will be contributing to the economic development of Guam, whether it is through workforce development or through the research and ensuring the quality of drinking water," said UOG president Anita Borja Enriquez. "These projects will help improve the overall quality of life on the island."

UOG

The rendering of the Margaret Perez Hattori Perez Hattori-Uchima School of Health Nursing Annex.

Funding almost came up short for the two projects. When the bids were submitted, even the lowest bid turned out millions of dollars over budget. Construction costs in Guam have risen due to the escalating prices of construction materials and further complicated by labor shortages and supply-chain issues over the past several years.

But just when UOG faced the difficult choice of delaying the WERI building project, an opportunity to apply for additional funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration came up in early September 2023. With just three days to apply, the chances looked slim.

"UOG received an award for an additional $4.3 million from EDA and so that was a moment of sheer joy...and that brings this narrative to today, right here, where we celebrate the groundbreaking," said Cathleen Moore-Linn, executive director of the Research Corporation of the University of Guam who spearheaded the efforts on both construction projects.

The WERI and Nursing Annex construction projects are expected to cost $22.7 million and funded through grants from the U.S. EDA, Department of the Interior funds allocated by Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero's administration, the UOG Endowment Foundation, and the University of Guam, among the sources of funding for the two projects.

Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, who is a UOG student some 30 years ago, and in his current capacity as acting governor, said the two projects are being constructed "as part of the infrastructure and foundation of our island."

The two buildings are expected to be completed in 2025.

RIM Architects designed the facilities. The construction contractor is a joint venture involving Pacific Federal Management and Vertex Guam, both local companies. ***(UOG)***

UOG

Representatives of the University of Guam and the UOG Endowment Foundation join Pacific Federal Management and Vertex Guam representatives and RIM Architects at the groundbreaking for the construction of the two-story the Margaret Perez Hattori- Uchima School of Health Annex, and the three-story Water and Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific facility on Nov. 20, 2023.

USCG Guam hosts 2nd annual Industry Day

By CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR
U.S. Coast Guard Forces
MICRONESIA/SECTOR GUAM

U.S. COAST GUARD/CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam hosts its second annual Industry Day on Nov. 20, 2023, in Guam.

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam personnel hosted its second annual Industry Day on Nov. 20, 2023, in Guam.

Following the success of the inaugural session in 2022, this event further strengthens the collaboration between the U.S. Coast Guard and the maritime industry.

The day's agenda included insightful presentations and discussions led by U.S. Coast Guard officials and industry experts. Topics ranged from domestic vessel inspection and maritime cybersecurity to modernization updates from the Port of Guam. This Industry Day is significant for the U.S. Coast Guard and the maritime industry. It provides a unique platform for a mutual exchange of ideas and challenges, helping to build a stronger, more informed maritime community.

Guam's maritime community faces unique challenges distinct from those on the mainland U.S., largely due to its geographical location, the impacts of climate change, and specific legal and regulatory frameworks. These include increased heat, stronger storms, and water shortages, affecting maritime activities and marine ecosystems. The Jones Act poses constraints, especially given Guam's exemption nuances, impacting shipping efficiency and costs. The significant military presence and activities on Guam also influence maritime operations, requiring careful coordination and management of resources. Customs and trade regulations treat shipments to and from Guam differently than within the mainland U.S.

Furthermore, maintaining the security of the strategically vital Port of Guam necessitates ongoing collaboration and training exercises among the U.S. Coast Guard, the government of Guam, and industry partners.

"In Guam and the broader Micronesian region, we confront challenges distinct from those encountered stateside. The strength and dedication of our maritime community and partners enable us to navigate these unique circumstances effectively. This event symbolizes our commitment to fostering robust collaboration and a deeper understanding of our dynamic maritime environment. Together, we are addressing these challenges and transforming them into opportunities for growth and enhanced maritime safety and security," said Capt. Nicholas Simmons, commander for CGFMSG and Captain of the Port Guam Zone, highlighting the collaborative efforts in addressing regional challenges.

Benefits for participants:

- For the U.S. Coast Guard, the event offers an opportunity to outline current challenges and future directions, gaining valuable insights from industry experts.
- Industry members can learn about shared needs and challenging while identifying potential solutions and benefiting from direct feedback.
- The event facilitates networking, collaboration, and partnership opportunities among industry peers and government officials.

"The U.S. Coast Guard Industry Day is more than just a conference; it's a cornerstone for building a resilient and proactive maritime community," said Lt. Cmdr. Al Blaisdell, the prevention department head for CGFMSG. "We appreciate the strong participation from all interested parties to join us in this significant event, which was informative, engaging, and pivotal for the future of maritime industry and security in the region." ***(USCG)***

USCG completes two-week operation in Pacific region

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard has concluded Operation Kuru Kuru, an annually held comprehensive two-week operation in the Pacific region, highlighting the Coast Guard's commitment to supporting international partners in the region.

Operation Kuru Kuru, executed from Oct. 22 to Nov. 3, 2023, is a collaborative effort with the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Centre, aimed at countering Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing across the region.

The operation encompasses a wide array of objectives, including enhancing cooperative surveillance engagement between participating nations, conducting boarding activities at sea to combat IUU fishing, and utilizing remote sensing information to drive intelligence-led operations. This operation covers a combined area of 15 participating Pacific island countries' exclusive economic zones and the adjacent high seas pockets, approximating 8.2 million square miles, an area more than twice the size of the continental United States.

"The U.S. Coast Guard's presence and contributions to Operation Kuru Kuru underscore our commitment to regional security and disaster response," said Cmdr. Andrew Williams, enforcement branch chief for U.S. Coast Guard District 14. "We are honored to stand alongside our international partners as we work together to address challenges that impact the Pacific region."

While engaged in the region, the Coast Guard offers a host of mission capabilities, including proactively supporting search and rescue operations, humanitarian aid, and air and vessel surveillance to counter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing across the region.

During this operation, a Coast Guard C-130 based out of Coast Guard District 14's Air Station Barbers Point, responded to a request from the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre Fiji to perform search and rescue operations in and around the Nonouti Island, Gilbert Islands, Kiribati. The C-130 was then rerouted following Tropical Cyclone Lola's impact on Vanuatu to conduct post-storm assessments throughout the South Pacific island chain surrounding Vanuatu. These assessments were integral in gauging the extent of damage caused by the cyclone and facilitating the coordination of relief efforts.

Despite the operational challenges posed by Tropical Cyclone Lola, the C-130 was able to conduct aerial surveillance fishery patrols within the EEZs of Fiji, Tonga, American Samoa, and Vanuatu, providing several crucial observation reports to partner nations.

"Operation Kuru Kuru highlights the Coast Guard's partnership with Pacific Island nations and how these collaborative efforts are vital in our mission to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing." said Rear Adm. Michael Day, commander of U.S. Coast Guard District 14. "Together, we can protect our oceans, preserve marine resources, and ensure sustainable fisheries for future generations while addressing additional challenges that impact the Pacific region."

Through operations like Operation Kuru Kuru, the Coast Guard remains dedicated to serving and safeguarding the international community, addressing IUU fishing, and responding to humanitarian crises. It reinforces the importance of multilateral cooperation and regional security to protect the resources and well-being of Pacific nations.

The Coast Guard is responsible for ensuring the safety, security, and environmental protection of the Pacific region. Its core missions encompass search and rescue, law enforcement, fisheries protection, and humanitarian assistance across a vast and diverse area of operations. ***(U.S. Coast Guard District 14)***

ANGELA HENDERSON
File photo shows a Coast Guard cutter boarding team comprised of Coast Guardsmen and a Cook Islands official prepare to inspect a fishing vessel operating within an exclusive economic zone in the Pacific Ocean during operation Kuru Kuru last Nov. 12, 2011.

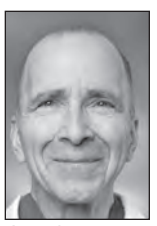
GRMC expands team of neurology specialists

DEDEDO, Guam—In a continued effort to expand the island's neuroscience expertise In Guam, Guam Regional Medical City recently welcomed three new neuroscientists: neurosurgeons Dr. Scott C. Dulebohn and Dr. Luc Jasmin, and neurologist/sleep specialist Dr. Naho Hattori.

GRMC chief executive officer Dr. Alexander "Beau" Wielaard said, "GRMC has been working extremely hard to grow services that address important unmet needs impacting our community. We have a vision to serve as a regional center of excellence for neurological diseases and believe that the highest quality of care for these complex problems will be delivered when specialized personnel and equipment are organized into one team. We want the whole community to know that GRMC partners closely with our EMS colleagues to accept all patients with suspected stroke emergencies in hopes of improving access to our team when timing is critical."

Dulebohn

Hattori


Jasmin

Dulebohn joins GRMC as a full-time neurosurgeon with over 25 years of expertise in pain and minimally invasive surgeries. He has recently been appointed to serve as GRMC's director of the Neuroscience Center. In his career, Dulebohn developed emedicine.com, which became the largest online textbook for medicine in the world and integrated with the National Library of Medicine. Dulebohn also co-founded StatPearls, an online and mobile application board review for all fields of medicine. His expertise includes treating brain and spine trauma, bleeding, tumors, aneurysms, fractures, and infections; carotid disease; back and leg pain; neck and arm pain; cervical spine disease; carpal tunnel and other compressive neuropathies.

Jasmin joins the GRMC team after serving as a neurosurgeon in the United States since 2006. Before becoming a neurosurgeon, he was an assistant professor in neurology for 14 years. Jasmin is the president of the Painless Research Foundation, a non-profit international research organization dedicated to eliminating pain through translational research, education, and advocacy—primarily for cancer pain, neuropathic pain, and post-operative pain. His expertise includes brain injury surgery, spine surgery, brain tumor surgery, and irradiation therapy for tumors, pain, and abnormal movements, amongst other specialties.

Hattori is a full-time neurologist, sleep specialist, and newly appointed as the hospital's Stroke Medical director, who last served as an attending neurologist at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine in California. She earned her medical degree at the University of Antigua School of Medicine in St. John's, Antigua, and completed her neurology residencies in Florida and California, and her Sleep Medicine Fellowship at the University of North Carolina. Hattori's expertise includes stroke, seizures, dementias, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, ALS, headaches, and sleep disorders such as sleep apnea.

GRMC's Neurosciences team also includes neurointerventional radiologist Dr. Scott Shay, who continues to offer 24/7 access to advanced neurointerventional stroke procedures for the entire community; Jennifer Artero, RN, who recently joined the hospital as its Stroke Program Coordinator (a position previously held by Elisabeth Collins, DNP, APRN-NP) and is working closely with Collins during the transition; and Dr. Justin Hale, GRMC's former neurologist/sleep specialist, who has relocated to the U.S., but remains tied to GRMC to assist with stoke code coverage.

Those seeking neuroscience services at GRMC will need a referral from their primary care physician or other specialist before making an appointment. For more information about GRMC's neuroscience specialists and services, please visit www.grmc.gu. You can also contact the Referral Management Office at (671) 633-GRMC (4762) or email refer@grmc.gu. ***(GRMC)***

Micronesia Mall announces Black Friday hours, giveaways

Micronesia Mall has announced its Black Friday hours of operation—6am to 10pm.

Eateries and service businesses shall open at 8am. Shoppers can enjoy Black Friday giveaways by Micronesia Mall at 6am, 8am, 10am, and 1pm in the Micronesia Mall Center Court (terms and conditions apply).

Specific promotions sponsored by the Micronesia Mall include:

■ Giveaways of free $10 Foot Locker gift cards to the first 100 in line at 6am, 8am, and 10am.

■ Giveaways of Micronesia Mall merchandise to the first 50 in line to snap and share a photo at our Thanksgiving photo booth at 6am, 8am, and 10am.

■ Game Corner, where Mall shoppers can digitally spin to win great prizes, opens at 1pm. Limited to the first 150 people who can present a Black Friday-dated Mall receipt. (While supplies last and terms and conditions apply).

Adding to the festive spirit, Micronesia Mall announces the launch of the annual Holiday Lights & Snow Shows, the Super Train, and Photos with Santa in the Micronesia Mall Center Court—all on Black Friday!

For the latest updates on Micronesia Mall's Black Friday festivities and upcoming events and promotions, visit Micronesia Mall's Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. ***(PR)***

PORT CALL

US NAVY

Operations Specialist 2nd Class Carl Green, right, from Jacksonville, Florida, leads a tour of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Shoup* (DDG 86) during a scheduled port visit on Saipan, Nov. 13. Shoup is assigned to Commander, Task Force (CTF) 70, and is forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

US NAVY

Sea Cadets visit the pilot house while touring the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Shoup* (DDG 86) during a scheduled port visit on Saipan, Nov. 13.

US NAVY

Operations Specialist 3rd Class Valentin Paredes Torres, from Houston, reads to students at Garapan Elementary School on Saipan during a port visit by the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Shoup* (DDG 86), Nov. 13.

US NAVY

Machinist Mate 1st Class Tony Marble, from Chicago, paints a wall at Garapan Elementary School on Saipan during a port visit by the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Shoup* (DDG 86), Nov. 13.

US NAVY

Chief Culinary Specialist Angel Marte, right, from Chicago, spends time with students at Garapan Elementary School on Saipan during a port visit by the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS *Shoup* (DDG 86), Nov. 13.

Life & Style

Ex-Penthouse model says Axl Rose raped her in 1989

NEW YORK (AP)—A former Penthouse magazine model sued Guns N' Roses singer Axl Rose on Wednesday, saying he raped her in a 1989 attack at a New York City hotel that left her with anxiety and depression and harmed her career.

Sheila Kennedy, 61, filed the lawsuit in State Supreme Court in Manhattan, seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages for physical injury, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, mental anguish, humiliation, embarrassment, anxiety and economic harm.

The lawsuit was filed against Rose, 61, of Malibu, California, under a temporary New York law, the Adult Survivors Act, that lets adult victims sue over attacks that occurred even decades ago. The law expires after Thursday.

Attorney Alan S. Gutman said in a statement on behalf of Rose: "Simply put, this incident never happened. Notably, these fictional claims were filed the day before the New York State filing deadline expires."

He added: "Though he doesn't deny the possibility of a fan photo taken in passing, Mr. Rose has no recollection of ever meeting or speaking to the Plaintiff, and has never heard about these fictional allegations prior to today. Mr. Rose is confident this case will be resolved in his favor."

In her lawsuit, Kennedy, of Palm Springs, California, alleges that she met Rose in February 1989 in a Manhattan nightclub, where the singer invited her to join a party in his hotel suite afterward.

According to the lawsuit, Kennedy saw Rose have sex with another model before he became angry with the woman, ordering her out of his suite.

He then turned toward Kennedy, dragging her across a floor by the hair and tying her hands together with pantyhose, before assaulting her from behind, the lawsuit said.

"Rose made no attempt to ask for or check that Kennedy was consenting," the lawsuit said. "He treated her like property used solely for his sexual pleasure."

The lawsuit said the attack left Kennedy with lifelong emotional, physical, psychological and financial damage and "symptoms akin to post-traumatic stress disorder whenever she hears Rose's name or the music of Guns N' Roses."

She was diagnosed with anxiety and depression because of the attack and her earnings have suffered because she has avoided nightclubs and social scenarios where she could encounter Rose or hear his music, and those social contacts are important for her career, the lawsuit said.

Kennedy has made the allegations about Rose in the past, including in a 2016 memoir, "No One's Pet," and in a 2021 documentary, "Look Away," about women sexually abused in the music industry.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as Kennedy has done.

Hat worn by Napoleon sold for $2.M

AP

One of the signature broad, black hats that Napoléon wore when he ruled 19th century France and waged war in Europe is on display at Osenat's auction house in Fontainebleau, south of Paris, Friday, Nov. 17, 2023.

PARIS (AP)—A faded and cracked felt bicorne hat worn by Napoléon Bonaparte sold for $2.1 million at an auction Sunday of the French emperor's belongings.

Yes, $2.1 million.

The signature broad, black hat—one of a handful still in existence that Napoléon wore when he ruled 19th-century France and waged war in Europe—was initially valued at 600,000 to 800,000 euros ($650,000-870,000). It was the centerpiece of Sunday's auction in Fontainebleau of memorabilia collected by a French industrialist who died last year.

But the bidding quickly jumped higher and higher until Jean Pierre Osenat, president of the Osenat auction house, designated the winner.

''We are at 1.5 million (euros) for Napoleon's hat ... for this major symbol of the Napoleonic epoch," he said, as applause rang out in the auction hall. The buyer, whose identity was not released, must pay 28.8% in commissions according to Osenat, bringing the overall cost to 1.9 million euros ($2.1 million).

While other officers customarily wore their bicorne hats with the wings facing front to back, Napoleon wore his with the ends pointing toward his shoulders. The style—known as "en bataille," or in battle—made it easier for his troops to spot their leader in combat.

The hat on sale was first recovered by Col. Pierre Baillon, a quartermaster under Napoléon, according to the auctioneers. The hat then passed through many hands before industrialist Jean-Louis Noisiez acquired it.

AFTER COMMENTS ON ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Hollywood companies drop Sarandon, Barrera

NEW YORK (AP)—Oscar-winning actor Susan Sarandon and "Scream" star Melissa Barrera were each dropped by Hollywood companies after making comments on the Israel-Hamas war that some deemed antisemitic.

Spyglass Media Group, the production company behind the upcoming "Scream VII," acknowledged Barrera's exit from the horror franchise. The Mexican-born actress, who starred in "In the Heights" and the two recent "Scream" installments, had posted statements on Instagram Stories calling the war "genocide and ethnic cleansing."

"Gaza," she wrote, "is currently being treated like a concentration camp."

Spyglass said in a statement that its position "is unequivocally clear: We have zero tolerance for antisemitism or the incitement of hate in any form, including false references to genocide, ethnic cleansing, Holocaust distortion or anything that flagrantly crosses the line into hate speech."

Late Wednesday, Barrera posted a statement on Instagram Stories about her firing.

"First and foremost I condemn antisemitism and Islamophobia. I condemn hate and prejudice of any kind against any group of people," she wrote.

"I believe a group of people are NOT their leadership, and that no governing body should be above criticism," she added. "I pray day and night for no more deaths, for no more violence, and for peaceful coexistence. I will continue to speak out for those that need it most and continue to advocate for peace and safety, for human rights and freedom."

Earlier Wednesday, Deadline reported that Jenna Ortega, who played Barrera's sister in the two previous "Scream" films, has exited the seventh installment. Ortega earlier departed the franchise because of her "Wednesday" schedule, the trade reported. A spokesperson for Ortega didn't immediately respond to queries.

A spokesman for the United Talent Agency said Sarandon, the five-time Oscar nominee, is no longer represented by the agency. Sarandon's exit from UTA followed comments she's made about Israel, most recently in an appearance Nov. 17 at a pro-Palestinian rally in New York.

"There are a lot of people afraid of being Jewish at this time, and are getting a taste of what it feels like to be a Muslim in this country, so often subjected to violence," Sarandon said, according to the New York Post.

The Post reported that Sarandon joined the crowd in chanting "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free"—a slogan seen as antisemitic because it suggests the eradication of Israel.

Wife's admissions damage husband's trust in her word

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 30 years. Recently, she shared details of two infidelities that she had with other men.

The first was with an individual on the staff of our church who held himself out to be my friend. My wife says it was an unprovoked attack, where he forced himself upon her. But when I asked why she didn't resist or fight him off, she said she didn't know and that maybe, deep down, she wanted it to happen. The second was someone she met at a bar and had developed a relationship with. When I was away on business trips, she stayed with him overnight on four occasions.

She tells me these things happened more than 20 years ago and she's been faithful since, but to put it bluntly, I am devastated and unconvinced that that's the entire story. I believed my wife to be faithful during our marriage.

I guess I was naive because, over the years, she was jealous and accused me of something nefarious if I even looked at a woman, although I never strayed. Now I'm doubting everything. Did we live a fictional life? Were we ever truly happy? How can I believe that she's been faithful since?

The fact of the matter is I DON'T BELIEVE HER. I still love her, but every time I look at her, I think about what she told me, and I'm having a hard time coping with this information. I don't think I will ever get over this. What should I do?

DOESN'T BELIEVE HER IN FLORIDA

DEAR DOESN'T BELIEVE: I can feel your pain, and for that, you have my sympathy. You may need the help of a marriage and family counselor to figure out the answers to the questions you are asking yourself. Once you have started on that path, ask your wife to join you. Solid marriages are built on trust. Only if that can be reestablished will your marriage be healed.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Three months ago, I lost my dear, loving wife (the best part of me) to cancer, COVID-19, pneumonia and heart problems. We had a great marriage, not perfect, but the happiest times of our lives. In disbelief, carrying a burden of grief, sorrow and pain, I am lonely and alone, but it is getting lighter with each passing day. I know I don't want to spend the rest of my remaining time this way.

We were together 40 years, rearing a blended family of four children. Then, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren came along. How long should I wait before considering looking around, dating and searching for someone to share my life with? I am being bombarded with interest from women I do not know, which I did not expect.

ALONE IN ALABAMA

DEAR ALONE: Please accept my sympathy for your loss. Your loneliness, pain and vulnerability are palpable. This is why, when you start dipping your toe into the dating pool, it's important to take your time and not rush into any "quickie" entanglements.

Realize that as a senior widower, you are now a hot commodity. You will meet many women as the weeks go on. There's a good reason why folks are advised not to make any serious decisions for a year after a loss such as the one you have experienced. Take your time and avoid jumping into any serious commitments in the coming months.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

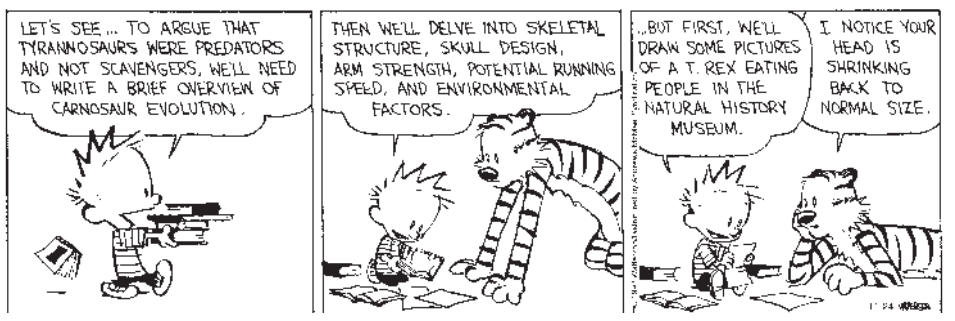
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LET'S SEE... TO ARGUE THAT TYRANNOSAURS WERE PREDATORS AND NOT SCAVENGERS, WE'LL NEED TO WRITE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CARNOSAUR EVOLUTION.
THEN WE'LL DELVE INTO SKELETAL STRUCTURE, SKULL DESIGN, ARM STRENGTH, POTENTIAL RUNNING SPEED, AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS.
..BUT FIRST, WE'LL DRAW SOME PICTURES OF A T. REX EATING PEOPLE IN THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.
I NOTICE YOUR HEAD IS SHRINKING BACK TO NORMAL SIZE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW ARE YOU LIKING THE JOB AT ANDRES?
IT'S GREAT!
THE CUSTOMERS ARE NICE ENOUGH, AND I LIKE THE STAFF.
PLUS, I GET ALL THE COFFEE I CAN DRINK FOR FREE!
YEAH. I NOTICED YOU'RE HOVERING A FEW INCHES OFF THE GROUND.
YEAH. I'M THINKING THAT'LL WEAR OFF BY BEDTIME.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WELL, I'LL BE. IT'S MY AUNT BETTY'S CHRISTMAS LETTER.
BOY, SHE GETS HERS OUT EARLY.
NOT REALLY. IT SAYS "1973 HAS BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 — Pérignon
4 Citrus drinks
8 Spiced tea
12 Attorneys' org.
13 Antitoxins
14 Erstwhile acorns
15 Casablanca denizen
17 "Phooey!"
18 Pitcher known as "Tom Terrific"
19 Dr. of hip-hop
21 Whatever
22 Financier J.P.
26 Berate
29 Bar bill
30 Estuary
31 Holiday entrees
32 Go astray
33 Lawman Wyatt
34 Altar constellation
35 Decks in the ring
36 TV trophies
37 Wee bite
39 Playwright Levin
40 Year in Acapulco
41 Fairway shots
45 Trojan War hero
48 Preach
50 Palm starch
51 Thor's father
52 Bikini half
53 Scheme
54 Tree home
55 Pierced body part

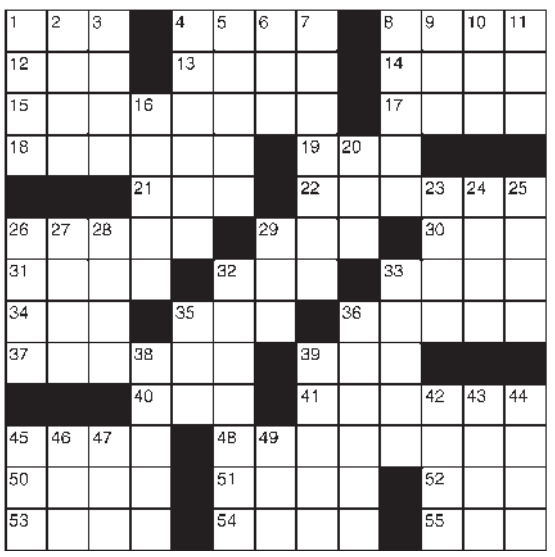
DOWN

1 River blockers
2 Bassoon relative
3 Actress Kate
4 Rise
5 Belittle
6 Historic time
7 Bedtime visitor
8 Software writer
9 Guffaw syllable
10 Alias letters
11 Follower (Suff.)
16 Cameo shapes
20 Steal from
23 Metric measure
24 Ethereal
25 Siestas
26 Counterfeit
27 LBJ biographer Robert
28 Epps of "House"
29 "— the season ..."
32 Wise king
33 Cybermessages
35 Barbie's guy
36 Straying
38 Anglo- —
39 "Thor" actor Elba
42 Unspoken feeling
43 Old Testament book
44 Blacken
45 Cleo's slayer
46 Tokyo-based carrier
47 Istanbul honorific
49 Lyric poem

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	A	N	T		B	F	N	F		G	Y	M
A	U	D	I		U	D	O	N		R	A	E
G	R	A	T	I	T	U	D	E		A	L	L
S	A	S	H	E	S			R	A	C	E	S
			E	R		M	O	O	S	E		
E	G	G	S		V	A	L		A	H	A	B
S	I	R			A	N	I			U	N	O
S	L	A	B		S	O	N		A	L	O	T
		N	A	D	E	R		A	D			
F	U	D	G	F			S	N	C	R	T	S
I	M	P		G	R	A	V	Y	B	O	A	T
G	P	A		A	A	R	E		E	U	R	O
S	S	S		S	H	I	N		S	T	E	W

Yesterday's answer 11-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Hyland, 33; Katherine Heigl, 45; Colin Hanks, 46; Pete Best, 82.

Happy Birthday: Push forward, compensate for lost time and refuse to let anyone slow you down. Take the initiative to do things your way this year. An aggressive, hands-on attitude will help you reach your target. Strive to make professional and personal improvements. Pick up more skills, tune in to what's trending and control the dialogue to ensure you receive and pass along information based on facts. Express your feelings. Your numbers are 4, 12, 18, 25, 31, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19)*: Invest in yourself and the things you enjoy doing most. Refuse to let anyone railroad you into heading in a direction that benefits them more than you. Learn from the experience and recognize that doing your own thing is OK. Share your feelings. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20)*: A change you encounter will lead to an unexpected opportunity. Go the distance, and you'll discover something that you enjoy doing. Don't settle for secondhand information. Go directly to the source to avoid wasting valuable time. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20)*: Pay more attention to how you present yourself to others. A relationship will require tender loving care if you don't want a misunderstanding to occur. Be open and honest, and clarify your position regarding your feelings and desires. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22)*: Lend a helping hand. Your outreach will touch someone who will reciprocate and encourage positive results. Don't take a physical risk or put yourself in harm's way. Protect yourself, your loved ones and your reputation. Let charm and intelligence distance you from danger. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22)*: Plan to do something you enjoy. All work and no play will lead to overreacting or emotional confrontation. Don't feel you have to spend money to impress or lift your spirits; time spent with someone or doing something you love will be elevating. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)*: A makeover or home improvement project will face opposition. Get the go-ahead before you start in order to avoid having to backtrack. A partnership will be subject to change if one of you isn't upfront about wants and needs. Be willing to compromise and share. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)*: Consider what's happening before joining in. You may not want to share your thoughts or secrets prematurely. Someone will try to steal your ideas if you are too revealing. Don't let your emotions run wild when dealing with personal matters. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)*: Get motivated and handle unfinished business. A change will get your mojo working and prompt you to mix and mingle with people who spark your interest. Listen carefully and question anything that sounds debatable. Make health and well-being your priorities. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)*: Use intelligence and charm to get your way. A compassionate approach will encourage others to side with whatever decision you make. Walk away from anyone who tries to sabotage your plans. If you are fun to be with, everyone will want to join your team. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)*: Slow down, decide what's best for you and don't let emotional situations cloud your vision. Make domestic changes that help you relax and lower debt and worry. Delegate time and money carefully, and don't feel the need to pay for others. Offer suggestions, not cash. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)*: Be a selective observer. Don't feel the need to get involved in someone else's drama. Put your time and effort into self-preservation and feeling and looking your best. Promote what you have to offer, and you'll find a path that leads to a successful enterprise. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20)*: Pay attention, and you'll recognize who is legitimate and who is trying to take advantage of you. Follow instructions, but consider how you can make improvements. Efficiency will separate you from the competition. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are friendly, reliable and energetic. You are playful and entertaining.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			8					1
		9		6		3		
3		2			4			
							7	6
					7			
2	3			8			9	5
		6		2				
	4			7		8	5	
5	2			1		7	6	

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	6	5	3	7	8	9	1	2
3	8	1	5	9	2	4	7	6
2	9	7	4	1	6	8	5	3
7	5	9	8	3	1	6	2	4
1	2	3	7	6	4	5	9	8
6	4	8	9	2	5	7	3	1
5	3	6	2	8	7	1	4	9
8	7	2	1	4	9	3	6	5
9	1	4	6	5	3	2	8	7

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/24

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BADGERS Solution: 9 letters

D	G	T	S	E	R	O	F	S	L	E	N	N	U	T
E	N	O	C	T	U	R	N	A	L	W	E	H	S	E
T	I	U	R	F	Ⓣ	O	W	O	O	D	I	O	L	R
L	G	R	O	Ⓐ	H	O	L	E	R	L	I	N	I	R
A	G	F	Ⓘ	R	S	T	N	A	L	P	I	E	A	E
W	I	Ⓛ	L	A	G	S	G	S	S	G	E	Y	N	F
N	D	S	W	O	R	R	U	B	H	R	C	F	S	B
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Lowry makes 7 3-pointers to lead Heat to win over sluggish Cavs

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyle Lowry made seven 3-pointers and scored a season-high 28 points, and the Miami Heat took advantage of Cleveland playing the second night of a back-to-back, rolling over the sluggish Cavaliers 129-96 on Wednesday.

Lowry made his first five 3s and finished 7 of 10 from long range. The Heat were without injured All-Star center Bam Adebayo, but built a 19-point lead in first half and never trailed in winning for the ninth time in 10 games.

"With Bam sitting out, I knew it was an opportunity for me to get more shots," Lowry said. "A good win on the road against a really, really good team."

Miami's been earning its frequent flyer mileage, as the Heat are playing a league-high 12 of 17 games to start the season outside South Florida.

Rookie Jaime Jaquez Jr. had his best game as a pro with 22 points, and the Heat tied a franchise record with eight players in double figures—as their reserves played the entire fourth quarter.

The Cavs had their winning streak stopped at four. They were understandably dragging after winning in overtime at Philadelphia on Tuesday night to keep their hopes alive for a wild card in the NBA's In-Season Tournament.

Darius Garland scored 14 points and Evan Mobley 13 to lead Cleveland, which has dealing with a spate of injuries. With the Cavs down 22 going into the fourth, coach J.B. Bickerstaff gave his starters some needed rest.

"You could see mentally, emotionally, physically, we just couldn't find it tonight," Bickerstaff said. "We played a great game last night and obviously expended a lot of energy. We tried, but we just couldn't find it.

"We don't make excuses, but it's the basketball reality that we live in."

Cavs rookie Craig Porter Jr. scored a team-high 16 in his first career start.

Both teams were missing their best players.

Adebayo sat out with a left hip bruise that he aggravated with a fall during a recent game. Adebayo leads the Heat in scoring (22.8 points), rebounds (10.2) and gives Miami a strong defensive presence inside.

"He's able to do everything except jump, which is a really bad thing when you're in the NBA," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Donovan Mitchell was out again for the Cavs, who have been shorthanded due to injuries most of the season. Mitchell, who averages a team-high 29.2 points, has missed four straight games with a hamstring injury the team is treating very cautiously.

AP

Miami Heat guard Kyle Lowry (7) shoots over Cleveland Cavaliers center Tristan Thompson (12) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, in Cleveland.

Lowry set the tone right after the opening tip, making four 3-pointerrs in the first 4:49 as the Heat sprinted to a 19-7 lead.

The Cavs regrouped and quickly closed the gap, but Lowry hit his fifth straight 3 to make it 27-20. The Miami point guard's first miss from deep came when he launched from 32 feet—a literal Heat check.

CELTICS 119, BUCKS 116

BOSTON (AP)—Jayson Tatum shook off an illness to have 23 points and 11 rebounds, carrying the Boston Celtics over the Milwaukee Bucks 119-116 on Wednesday night in an early showdown of top Eastern Conference teams.

Jaylen Brown had 26 points and eight assists for Boston, which improved the NBA's best record to 12-3. Kristaps Porzingis added 21 points and Derrick White scored 13.

The Celtics opened a 21-point lead in the first half and never trailed. They held that double-digit edge until the Bucks made a late charge in the final two minutes, slicing it to 114-111 before Tatum hit three free throws in the closing 21.2 seconds.

Brook Lopez led Milwaukee (10-5) with 28 points. Damian Lillard had 27 points, five rebounds and five assists, but Giannis Antetokounmpo was limited to 21 points after scoring at least 40 in his last two games.

The Bucks, who scored 130 points or more in their last three games, had a five-game winning streak halted.

CLIPPERS 109, SPURS 102

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points while hearing boos that prompted San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich to admonish the crowd, Paul George added 24 and Los Angeles beat San Antonio.

Victory Wembanyama, the No. 1 overall draft pick, had 22 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs, whose fans were more focused on jeering one of their former stars.

Fans booed as Leonard stood at the free-throw line late in the first half. Popovich grabbed the public address microphone and told the crowd to "stop all the booing" and "have a little class." The fans were quiet momentarily but then began booing even more loudly.

Jeremy Sochan finished with 19 points, Devin Vassell added 18, Zach Collins had 16 and Johnson 15 for San Antonio, which has trailed by at least 15 points in eight games this season.

NUGGETS 124, MAGIC 119

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Franz Wagner scored 24 of his 27 points in the second half, Paolo Banchero added 23 points, and Orlando beat Denver for its fifth straight win.

Nikola Jokic finished with 30 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists for the Nuggets, who fell to 4-4 without injured guard Jamal Murray. The triple-double was the sixth of the season for Jokic and 111th of his career.

Michael Porter Jr. scored 25 points for Denver.

Cole Anthony scored 20 points for the Magic, who took the lead for good on Banchero's 3-pointer with 1:49 left.

TIMBERWOLVES 112, 76ERS 99

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Anthony Edwards scored 31 points, Karl-Anthony Towns added 23 points and 11 rebounds, and Minnesota beat Philadelphia, which was playing without MVP Joel Embiid.

Embiid missed his first game of the season with left hip soreness after playing 38 minutes with 38 points and 12 rebounds in the 76ers' 122-119 overtime loss at Cleveland a night earlier.

Rudy Gobert had 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have won three straight and 10 of 11.

Marcus Morris Sr. started for Embiid and scored 16 points. Tyrese Maxey and De'Anthony Melton each had 16 points for the Sixers, who've lost four of six.

THUNDER 116, BULLS 102

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 40 points, Chet Holmgren had 18 points, 13 rebounds and four blocked shots, and Oklahoma City beat Chicago for its sixth straight victory.

Isaiah Joe added 20 points for the Thunder (11-4), on their longest winning streak since the 2018-19 season.

Gilgeous-Alexander raised his average to 30 points for the season and was showered with "MVP! MVP!" chants as he closed out the game with six free throws down the stretch.

DeMar DeRozan, after making just one basket in the first half, led the Bulls with 25 points.

HAWKS 147, NETS 145, OT

ATLANTA (AP)—Trae Young scored a season-high 43 points, including 14 in overtime, and Atlanta outlasted Brooklyn in its second shootout in two nights.

A night after falling 157-152 to the Indiana Pacers, the Hawks snapped a three-game losing streak and got back to .500.

De'Andre Hunter had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and scored nine straight points for the Hawks in the fourth quarter. Clint Capela finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds.

RAPTORS 132, PACERS 131

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Pascal Siakam scored 36 points, Scottie Barnes drove for the go-ahead dunk with 27 seconds left, and Toronto beat Indiana.

Barnes had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and his slam put Toronto ahead 130-129 for the last of five lead changes in the final 1:22. Dennis Schroder scored 26 points for the Raptors.

Buddy Hield missed a potential game-winning 3-pointer with 1.2 seconds left for the Pacers. He finished with 31 points and made 7 of 12 3s. Tyrese Haliburton had 33 points and 16 assists for Indiana.

PELICANS 117, KINGS 112

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Zion Williamson scored 25 points, Brandon Ingram added 21 and New Orleans beat Sacramento.

Jonas Valanciunas had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Pelicans, who also beat the Kings in New Orleans on Monday night. Jordan Hawkins added 13 points and Naji Marshall scored 12.

De'Aaron Fox finished with 26 points for the Kings. Domantas Sabonis had 23 points and nine rebounds, and Harrison Barnes added 22 points.

New Orleans missed 23 of 30 3-point attempts but outscored the Kings 62-28 in the paint.

ROCKETS 111, GRIZZLIES 91

HOUSTON (AP)—Jalen Green scored 26 of his season-high 34 points in the second half and Houston beat Memphis to stop a three-game skid.

Desmond Bane and Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 23 points each for the Grizzlies, who lost for the third time in four games.

Dillon Brooks, who spent his first six seasons with the Grizzlies, had 13 points in the first game against his former team after signing with the Rockets in the offseason. Jabari Smith Jr. added 18 points with nine rebounds as the Rockets improved to 7-1 at home.

HORNETS 117, WIZARDS 114

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—LaMelo Ball had 34 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds as Charlotte rallied from a 19-point deficit to hand Washington its seventh straight loss.

Miles Bridges had a season-high 33 points and 11 rebounds, and Mark Williams added 11 points and 14 rebounds for Charlotte.

Ball had 12 points, seven assists and four rebounds in the fourth quarter, and Bridges hit a step-back 3 with 47 seconds left to put Charlotte ahead for good.

Kyle Kuzma had 28 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds, and Jordan Poole added 24 points for the Wizards.

TRAIL BLAZERS 121, JAZZ 105

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Jerami Grant scored 30 points and Portland beat Utah to snap an eight-game skid.

Malcolm Brogdon added 20 points and eight assists, and Jabari Walker came off the bench to score a career-high 19 with 10 rebounds. The Blazers led by as many as 32 points.

Lauri Markkanen had 24 points for the Jazz, who have lost five straight and eight of 10.

MAVERICKS 104, LAKERS 101

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kyrie Irving scored 28 points and hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 22 seconds to play, and the Dallas Mavericks blew a 20-point lead in the fourth quarter before rallying back for a 104-101 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night.

LeBron James scored 16 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and made the tiebreaking tip-in with 1:16 to play for the Lakers, but the NBA career scoring leader also made a turnover with four seconds left and then missed a tying 3-point attempt at the buzzer.

After Luka Doncic and James traded missed 3-point attempts in the final minute, Irving coolly hit his fourth 3-pointer of the night near the Lakers' bench. Doncic then stole James' poor pass to the basket, and Irving hit two free throws before James missed another 3-point attempt.

SUNS 123, WARRIORS 115

PHOENIX (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 32 points, Devin Booker added 25 and the Phoenix Suns won their fifth straight game by beating the Golden State Warriors 123-115 on Wednesday night.

The Suns had a 23-point lead midway through the third quarter, but the Warriors managed to cut the advantage to 118-115 with 19 seconds left after Durant was called for a technical foul. Booker made a pair of free throws with 12.4 seconds left to thwart the rally.

Durant and Booker combined to go 28 for 29 on free throws.

The Warriors have lost seven of their past eight games, falling to 7-9 for the season.

Goodell says TV networks are asking for NFC North-leading

By LARRY LAGE
AP SPORTS WRITER

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Lions for many years were a team people had to watch on Thanksgiving.

Detroit was so bad for so long that some started clamoring for the franchise to lose its traditional place on the holiday.

Suddenly, the Lions are a team NFL fans outside the Motor City want to see.

"We're getting networks asking for the Lions," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in an interview with Fox 2 Detroit before attending Detroit's last game at Ford Field. "I think a lot of that goes back to the final game last season when they went into Green Bay. They didn't necessarily have anything to play for, but they went and beat their division opponent and knocked them out of the playoffs.

"In the kickoff game, they made another statement."

That was the first game of this season, when Detroit won at Super Bowl champion Kansas City. The NFC North-leading Lions (8-2) will have another opportunity to show the masses what they can do against the Packers (4-6) on Thursday.

AP

Detroit Lions head coach Dan Campbell addresses the media after an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears, Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023, in Detroit.

Detroit has opened a year with eight wins in 10 games for the first time since 1962. The run included a Week 4 win at Green Bay.

The Lions closed last season with eight wins in their last 10 games and capped the run by keeping Aaron Rodgers out of the postseason in what turned out to be his last game with Green Bay.

Packers coach Matt LaFleur is hoping his team can stem the tide.

LaFleur, who is from Mount Pleasant, Michigan, grew up watching the Lions play on the holiday at his grandmother's house.

"Everybody's glued to the TV set," he said. "It is a great honor.

"It's great to be going back to the state I'm from, and hopefully we can spoil their Thanksgiving Day."

BANGED UP

The Packers will be missing some key players.

Tight end Luke Musgrave and receiver Emanuel Wilson went on injured reserve Wednesday. Running back James Robinson was added to the active roster because Aaron Jones is out with a knee injury. AJ Dillon will likely start in the backfield.

"I'm ready for a haul," said Dillon, who is listed as questionable with a groin injury. "I've been in every situation these last four years."

BUCKLE UP

Detroit coach Dan Campbell makes bold moves, often going for it on fourth down instead of punting or kicking field goals.

"I tell my family this: ' Wear a diaper before some of these games,'" Campbell told WXYT-FM.

SURGING LOVE

Green Bay quarterback Jordan Love threw two interceptions in the last loss to the Lions, who led 27-3 at halftime. That was the first of five straight games in which the Packers failed to score a touchdown in the first half.

"We've just got to start fast," Love said. "We got ourselves in a hole the first time we played them, where we were trying to crawl out of that."

Love has been better lately.

He threw for a career-high 322 yards in a win over the Los Angeles Chargers on Sunday, surpassing his previous personal best, which he had set the week before in a loss to Pittsburgh.

GOING WITH GOFF

Jared Goff threw three interceptions for his first time in three years with the Lions on Sunday against Chicago, then helped them rally from a 12-point deficit in the last three minutes to win.

While the quick turnaround isn't ideal for most players, Goff is glad he doesn't have to wait long to make up for his lackluster performance.

"I'd love to come out this week and play well and get a 'W' and be able to put that one behind me," he said.

SEEKING A SURGE

Green Bay was also 4-6 a year ago before bouncing back with four straight wins to move into playoff contention.

"We've got a lot of the guys here that was on that team last year, and that's something we talked about," linebacker De'Vondre Campbell said. "There's a lot of outside noise, but none of that really matters. The only thing that matters is what we do."

Typical NFL also-rans surge toward playoff position in topsy-turvy season

By JOSH DUBOW
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The way this NFL season is going so far, there's a decent chance there could be a first-time Super Bowl participant for the first time since the 2008 season when Arizona became the 28th franchise to reach the big game.

That left four franchises without a Super Bowl berth and all of them currently have winning records and are off to some of their best starts in years.

Detroit (8-2), Cleveland (7-3), Jacksonville (7-3) and Houston (6-4) are currently in playoff position with a chance to end their droughts.

The success-starved Lions are in the best shape after winning at least eight of their first 10 games for the first time since 1962. Detroit has won just one playoff game since winning the NFL championship in 1957, nearly a decade before the first Super Bowl was played following the 1966 season.

The Browns have the longest drought without a division title, having last won one in 1989, and have won only one playoff game since returning as an expansion team in 1999. Cleveland is tied for its best record after 10 games since starting 8-2 in 1994, when Bill Belichick coached the team.

The Jaguars are tied for their best record after 10 games since starting 9-1 in 1999, when they went to the AFC title game — one of three times they got knocked out a game shy of the Super Bowl.

The Texans have never made it past the divisional round since becoming an expansion team in 2002 but are looking more and more like a contender each week thanks to the play of rookie quarterback C.J. Stroud.

This season is the first time that these four star-crossed franchises all have had a winning record at the same time, and there has never been a season when more than two of those franchises made the playoffs.

SECOND-HALF SHUTOUT

Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs are in a rare second-half slump.

Kansas City has gone three straight games without scoring a point in the second half for the team's longest drought since at least 1991. In Mahomes' first five seasons as quarterback, the Chiefs were held scoreless in the second half only twice.

Only two teams in the past 30 seasons have made the playoffs in a season when they went scoreless in the second half in three straight games but both ended up as Super Bowl champions: the 2000 Baltimore Ravens and the 2015 Denver Broncos.

For the season, the Chiefs have scored just 53 points in the second half for the third-fewest for any team through 10 games in the past 10 seasons, with only the 2016 Browns (51) and the 2019 Dolphins (37) scoring fewer.

ROOKIE QBS

Cleveland's Dorian Thompson-Robinson and Tommy DeVito of the New York Giants are the latest rookie QBs to get into the winning column.

They raised the number of rookie quarterbacks to earn a win in a start this season to nine, the most in a non-replacement player season since starts began being tracked in 1950.

There have been a record 10 rookie QB starters this season, with Arizona's Clayton Tune the only one who hasn't been credited with a win.

DeVito's victory was particularly noteworthy, as he managed to throw three TD passes and post a 137.7 passer rating despite getting sacked nine times against Washington.

That was the second-highest rating since the merger for a player who was sacked at least nine times, trailing only the 141.1 for Seattle's Dave Krieg against Kansas City in 1990. DeVito had the 88th game since the merger with a QB taking at least nine sacks, with the first 87 combining for a 64.1 passer rating in those games.

PERFECT PURDY

San Francisco quarterback Brock Purdy is on one of the most efficient two-game stretches ever for an NFL quarterback.

Purdy is 40 for 51 for 629 yards, six TDs, no interceptions and a 157.3 passer rating the past two weeks for the highest passer rating ever in a two-start stretch.

Purdy is the seventh player to have a passer rating of at least 145 in two straight games with at least 20 attempts, and the first to do it since Drew Brees in 2018.

Purdy had a perfect 158.3 passer rating on Sunday, joining Joe Montana as the only 49ers quarterbacks ever to do that in a game with at least 15 pass attempts.

Purdy had the 25th game with a perfect rating and at least 25 attempts, with Josh Allen the last to do it in Week 4 against Miami.

HOUSE CALLS

Dallas cornerback DaRon Bland has developed into quite the scoring threat.

Bland tied an NFL record last week by returning his fourth interception for a touchdown this season. Bland joined Eric Allen (1993), Jim Kearney (1972) and Hall of Famer Ken Houston (1971) as the only players in NFL history to do that in a season. Bland has seven more games to take sole possession of the record.

Bland has scored as many TDs on pass plays as several top pass catchers in the league, with his four TDs the same number as Davante Adams and DeAndre Hopkins have scored. He has more TDs on pass plays than the entire wide receiver groups for the Jets and Browns, who have three each.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Battle-tested duo looks to improve on silver finish

Andrew Johnson and Logan Mister will no longer be anonymous when they step onto the beach volleyball sand courts of the 2023 Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands this time around.

And that's absolutely fine for the surprise runner-up team of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games in the Northern Marianas.

"I've been looking forward to the Pacific Games since Logan and I competed in Thailand last April. The competition in Honiara is going to be tough, but that's what we're expecting since there will be many other teams who didn't compete in the Mini Games last year," said Johnson in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

It's a philosophy that Mister echoes in the days leading up to the quadrennial event at the South Pacific nation.

"I have been consistently training 3-5 days a week, and have been weightlifting 3-4 times a week as well. I am very excited to be representing the NMI for the Pacific Games, it's an honor to be selected. We are expecting to do well in this competition, but are aware that the competition is going to be steeper in comparison to the Mini Games. We are feeling excited to compete against the large countries like Australia. I have been training nonstop since the Mini Games and have seen lots of improvement in my game," he said.

Aside from working on their individual games, Johnson and Mister also found time from their very busy schedules to take part in the Association of Asian Volleyball Confederation circuit.

"Logan and I were able to link up earlier this year to train and compete together, and we are going to meet up again in Hawaii before flying into Honiara to join the CNMI delegation. This will allow us a few days to adjust to the climate and set up scrimmages against some other teams," said Johnson.

While the results of the recent AVC tourney weren't exactly ideal, it gave the duo a feel of where they are as far as conditioning goes.

"We lost in pool play to Thailand and Indonesia and did not make the main draw. It was unfortunate, but games were close, we were also battling with the weather. Neither of us has experienced playing in that intensity of heat," said Mister.

The duo then took the opportunity to thank the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, Northern Marianas Sports Association, sponsors, and the people of the Marianas for their all-out support.

"I'm so grateful for all the sponsors, coaches, athletes, officials, supporters, and everyone else who has made the CNMI's participation in the Pacific Games possible. Much love to my family and friends that support me through life," said Johnson.

This was dittoed by Mister, "I would like to thank NMSA and NMIVA for the support as well as my friends and family."

Last year in the Mini Games on home soil, Johnson and Mister finished with a silver medal after losing a heartbreaking final against Chillia James and Banga Stivano of powerhouse Vanuatu.

Mister and Johnson, who went undefeated in pool play and playoffs, nipped James and Stivano in the first set, 21-19. The Vanuatu pair, however, returned with the vengeance in the second set and blitzed the CNMI pair, 21-10, to force a third and deciding set.

Mister and Johnson played James and Stivano almost to a standstill in the rubber set, but Vanuatu had experience on their side and ultimately pulled off the victory and grabbed the gold medal, 15-13.

REALLY

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that record for longer. I was going for both gold and the record but mostly the gold because I knew if I got gold, I would've gotten the record as well."

He then thanked God, his mom Yulia, his family, his coach, Hiroyuki Kimura, his wife Yuko, and his teammates for supporting him and giving him strength.

Kimura said they're happy about the gold, but disappointed that they couldn't reach their goal time. "We are super happy to have won gold, but we had set our goal time much higher, so it was disappointing that we couldn't reach it. In the next 50m meet, we will challenge ourselves again."

"I've been coaching Isaiah for 13 years since he was 5 years old. However, this gold medal was the result of his own hard work, almost never taking time off from practice. This is also the result of his mother, who never let him rest and took him to practice every day. Not only to Isaiah, but also to Yulia, his mom, I would like to say, congratulations," said Kimura. "This gold medal is truly for Isaiah and his mom."

For his part, coach Richard Sikkel said on Aleksenko's win, "That is all coach Hiro's doing. Awesome win for Isaiah. Couldn't be happier for him. Great motivator for the rest of the team."

In other results that night, Kean Pajarillaga finished seventh with a time of 2:18.13 in the 200m backstroke. Pajarillaga broke the record for 17-18-year-olds and the national record in the prelims earlier with a time of 2:16.40. Meanwhile, Juhn Tenorio finished fourth at 2:14.79 in the same event.

Shoko Litulumar finished last in the women's 200m backstroke with a time of 2:44.43.

As of 7:30pm last night, the CNMI's total medal tally remained at seven—two gold, one silver, and four bronze.

ZHI

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the same as Round 1 except for Sasamoto who scored an 82.

Peter said that the team is 15 shots off a medal. "Two more rounds left, so we have a lot of strokes to make up."

In tennis, only Villanueva played yesterday morning and advanced to the next round after he won by default when his opponent, No. 12 Samoa's Marvin Soonalole, hurt himself in the last set. They managed to play for about an hour before the match was called off.

This morning at 9am, player/coach Colin Ramsey is playing against Guam's Camden Camacho, while also at the same time, junior netter June Yu is going up against Samoa's Leon Soonalole; followed by the doubles matchup of Yu and Nason Wessel against Tonga's Teufolau Huni and Filimone Junior Noa. Then after, he and Villanueva are playing doubles against Tonga's Filipe Huni and Otufangavalu Noa.

Weightlifting

On Wednesday, Riella Ichiuo took the stage in the women's 76-kg weight class and put her best foot forward but came in fifth place with a best snatch of 70 kg and a best clean & jerk attempt of 85 k for a total weight of 155 kg.

Overall gold and the concurrent Oceania Weightlifting Championships went to heavy lifting Australia's Olivia Shelton with a 96-kg snatch, a 119-kg clean & jerk, and a 215-kg total; silver was Samoa's Avatu Opeloge with an 88-kg snatch, a 110-kg clean & jerk, and a 198-kg total. Bronze went to Marshall Islands' Merean Atantaake with a 73-kg snatch, a 96-kg clean & jerk, and a 169-kg total.

Yesterday, heavy lifter Angel San Nicolas in the men's 96-kg weight class was humbled as he settled for seventh place with a best snatch lift of 121 kg, a best clean & jerk lift of 167 kg, and a total lift of 278 kg.

Gold overall and the concurrent Oceania Weightlifting Championship went to Samoa's Maeu Nanai with a 155-kg snatch, a 185-kg clean & jerk, and a 340-kg total weight lifted. Silver was Guam's Ethan Ellwell with a 140 kg snatch, a 165-kg clean & jerk, and a 305-kg overall weight. Bronze was a close one with Nauru's Uea Detudamo claiming it with a 133-kg snatch, 165-kg clean & jerk, and a 298-kg total weight lifted.

In the women's 81-kg weight class, Antonette Labausa settled for a close fourth-place finish after the jury ruled her second clean & jerk attempt of 96 kg a no lift. She lifted a 78-kg snatch, 93-kg clean & jerk, and a 168-kg total weight.

Oceania records were broken by Australia's Eileen Cikamatana who swept all divisions and the concurrent Oceania Weightlifting Championships—whose family brought the house down with their cheers and celebration after each of her successful lifts.

Cikamatana lifted a 115-kg snatch, a 145-kg clean & jerk, and a 260-kg overall weight.

Today, Joey Colisao is the last weightlifter to take the stage in the 109kg+ weight class.

In other sports, the men's national football team is competing against Tahiti at 7pm Solomon Islands time, while there's another round of golf for the men's team and Jin. Last day of swimming competitions are today.

Chef de mission

Nick Gross gave an update a week into the delegation's stay in the Solomons. He said, "As is the case in any Games of this magnitude, the visiting teams, along with the organizers, plan and plan and plan, only to see many of the plans thrown out the window when the theoretical becomes the practicum."

Luckily, he said, Team NMI has learned to roll with it. "Yes, there's been some frustration, mainly with our transportation. Although the majority of the venues are no more than 15 minutes away from each other at most, the incessant heat coupled with our teams need for rest, wears on everyone. Positively, we hope, Team NMI was provided an additional 15-person van to support our needs, so now it's up to us to internally dispatch the van for our teams' needs. Regarding dorm life at the SINU Kukum campus, our team has done a great job of making it as comfortable as possible under the circumstances and spends time daily or every other day working on laundry needs and hang drying to the best of their ability."

As for the medal haul for the team so far, of seven total from swimming and weightlifting, he said, "We're ecstatic with the performances by our members and have high hopes of hitting double digits prior to the closing of the Games on Dec. 2."

With Thanksgiving celebrations back home, Gross said "although the Games have not slowed down, us, Guam, and American Samoa are the only nations present that celebrate the holiday. We won't have much time due to the varying schedules of our 10 sports teams but are planning to have a small pizza party around 9pm tonight (last night) when we hope we can have at least 90% of the delegation together! It's a small gesture on the part of the [Northern Marianas Sport Association] but what a fantastic way to give thanks! In the end, I think all would agree, that we'd like to give thanks to all those that have supported the team in their preparations and financial support that has allowed us to have such a huge showing in the Pacific Games! *Dongkalu na si yu'us ma'ase*, sponsors and *tao tao* Marianas! Happy Thanksgiving to all from Team NMI!"

SANTOS

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my all. Keith really pushed me and challenged me. It was really fun and the adrenaline rush felt amazing," said Santos.

The 15-year-old said the hardest part of the race is, of course, the incline nature of the trek especially near the end.

"It was so hard to the point I had to walk for a bit. My legs felt like giving up. It's the most uphill I've ever ran my entire life. I think the coolest part was catching up with people. I didn't have a fast start and I was alone in the beginning. It did scare me a bit on how far people were from me, but it was really cool how I made my way up."

Santos first dedicated his first Turkey Trot to himself for all the hard work he's put in.

"I haven't run a race in a while and I didn't know if I still had it in me. I also want to dedicate this to my friends and family for their support and encouragement that really helped me before the race started. I want to thank my dad for helping me prepare for this race. He got off work early the day before the race just so we can go to Mt. Tapochao and see the course since I haven't been there since I was 6. Without that, I wouldn't have won. Lastly, I want to thank God for this amazing blessing and for helping me push through even when I didn't want to."

As for the turkey prize, Santos said since they don't have an oven at home, he'll probably give it to one of his friends for them to cook for their family.

Muldoon, meanwhile, said the Turkey Trot was an ideal lung-busting way to start the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Overall, the race this year was fantastic. It felt good to be running with friends, their families and fellow Run Saipan members. The combination of the challenging course, good weather, and the gorgeous views of the sunrise over the ocean made it a memorable experience. The energy from the participants and the overall atmosphere added to the enjoyment."

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Public Health Medical director is thankful that she was able to run like her old self, considering she's coming off sickbay.

"I ran at just about the same pace as my last Turkey Trot and I'm thankful I'm not getting slower! Especially considering that I'm coming off an injury I sustained while working in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia in September. Recovering from an injury always takes time, so I expected it to be a gradual process to get back into my regular rhythm. Rejoining running after such a hiatus was a challenge, but I'm grateful for the progress I've made and the ability to participate in events like the Saipan Turkey Trot."

As usual, Muldoon said the most challenging part of the Turkey Trot was Heart-Break Hill, while emphasizing despite the hardship she's just incredibly thankful to be able to run again.

"After being sidelined for seven weeks, being able to move my body freely and participate in events like the Saipan Turkey Trot is a gift. It has given me a renewed appreciation for the simple joy of running and being active. Overall, I'm grateful for my health, the support of those around me, and the opportunity to pursue my passion for running."

She's also extremely thankful for the Run Saipan community for inspiring her to run even if sometimes she doesn't feel like it.

"Last weekend I had slated to run the Mt. Tapochau route but woke up to pouring rain and decided not to go. Then three Run Saipan members posted on our group chat their picture on top of the mountain and I thought to myself, 'I can do that too!' So, I put on my sneakers and ran to the top in the rain. It built confidence to get that last big run in before race day. Thank you, Run Saipan ladies for your inspiration!" she said.

The rest of the Top 3 in the men's and women's divisions along with the age group winners will be published in the next issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

The 2023 Turkey Trot was sponsored by Joeten Enterprises, IT&E CNMI, Triple J Group of Companies, Current CNMI/MARPAC, and Saipan Vegas Resort.

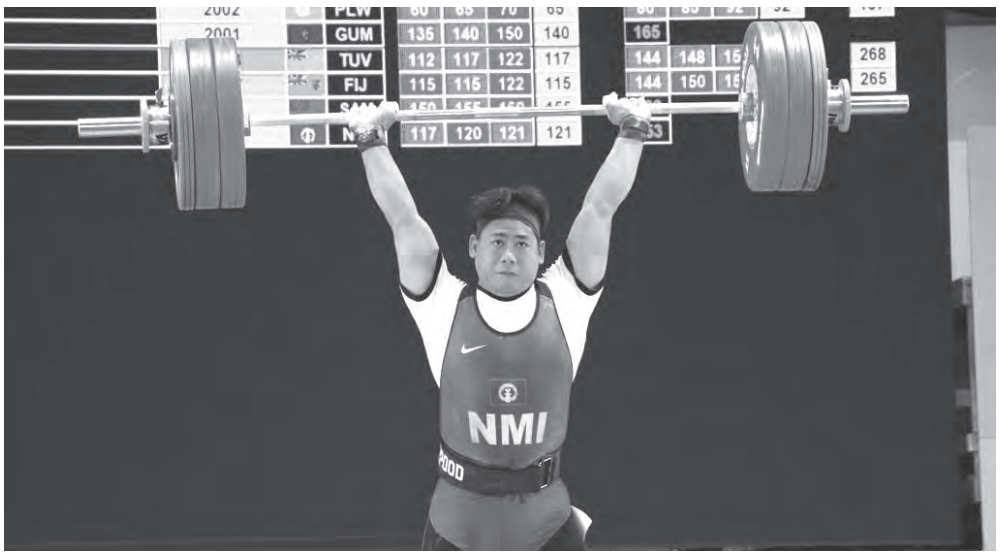
2023 Honiara, Solomon Islands Pacific Games

LEIGH GASES

Antonette Labausa successfully lifts a snatch in the 81-kg weight class yesterday afternoon in the 2023 Pacific Games at the Maranatha Hall.

LEIGH GASES

Antonette Labausa sets up for a snatch attempt during her weightlifting competition in the 81-kg weight class yesterday afternoon at the Maranatha Hall. She was fourth overall after the jury said "no lift" on her second clean ans jerk attempt.



LEIGH GASES

Angel San Nicolas successfully presses a snatch attempt during his 96-kg weight class division competition yesterday morning at the Maranatha Hall.

LEIGH GASES

Isaiah Aleksenko is interviewed by local media after his gold medal win in the 200m butterfly Wednesday night at the Aquatic Center.

LEIGH GASES

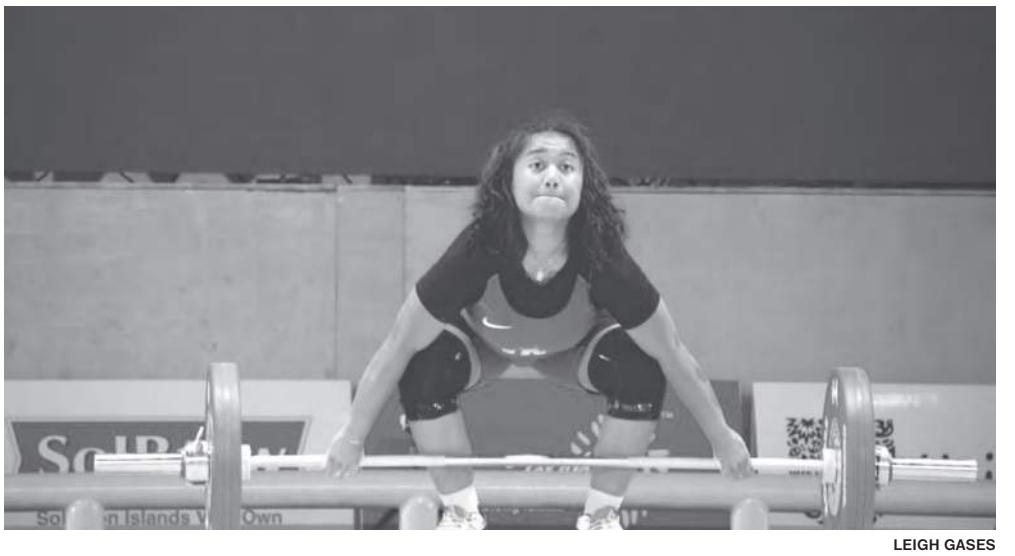
Isaiah Aleksenko, center, is the gold medalist of the 200m butterfly event after coming in at a record-breaking time of 2:05.86 Wednesday night at the Aquatic Center. Right is bronze medalist New Caledonia's Baptiste Savignac and left is silver medalist Tahiti's Nael Roux.

LEIGH GASES

Isaiah Aleksenko looks at the CNMI flag being hoisted up during the awards ceremony of the 200m butterfly event in which he gold Wednesday evening at the Aquatic Center.

LEIGH GASES

Riella Ichiuo successfully lifts a snatch during her 76-kg weight class weightlifting competition Wednesday afternoon at the Maranatha Hall.



LEIGH GASES

Riella Ichiuo sets up for a snatch attempt during her weightlifting competition Wednesday afternoon at the Maranatha Hall.

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Lowry makes 7 3-pointers to lead Heat to win over sluggish Cavs.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Battle-tested duo looks to improve on silver finish.

PAGE 21

'I really wanted the gold, and I got it'

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—Isaiah Aleksenko held CNMI's flag high and proud in the opening ceremony then showed it off at the podium as he stunned the South Pacific with the gold medal and broke the long-standing 35-year CNMI national record in the 200m butterfly event last Wednesday during the 2023 Pacific Games.

LEIGH GASES

Isaiah Aleksenko, middle, dons the CNMI flag and the gold medal while he holds Solo the Turtle, 2023 Pacific Games mascot, during the awards ceremony of the 200m butterfly event Wednesday night. Right is bronze medalist Baptiste Savignac of New Caledonia and silver medalist Nael Roux of Tahiti, left.

Even without an official pool to train in back home, Aleksenko's time of 2:05.86 broke the old standard of 2:25.48 made in 1988 by CNMI Sports Hall of Famer and Pan American Games USA swimmer Jonathan Sakovich.

The 6'0" high school senior flew through the 50m pool at break-neck speed and left the field choking on his fumes as he cruised past and humbled silver medalist Tahiti's Nael Roux, who clocked in at 2:09.52. Bronze went to New Caledonia's Baptiste Savignac with a time of 2:11.80.

Roux tried to keep pace with Aleksenko in the first two laps as he was merely milliseconds behind, but Aleksenko disposed of him in the final laps with more than enough time to spare.

The 17-year-old had already broken the national record in the preliminaries in the morning when he clocked in at 2:08.96—after not even taking it too seriously—and still managed to shave off three seconds in the finals that evening to set a newer standard.

The CNMI team tent exploded into cheers in celebration as Aleksenko splashed the water in triumph once his face showed on the big screen after winning gold. In the awards ceremony after his event, the national anthem of the CNMI rang throughout the Aquatics Center for the hundreds in attendance. After, he was interviewed by media and was asked how he felt winning gold for the CNMI.

The Marianas High School senior showed a lot of emotion in the interview with *Saipan Tribune* as he was happy that he won gold. He said he was nervous in his event because, "I really wanted the gold, and I got it."

About his swim, he said, "I felt good in the first 100m and then as soon as I turned, it was hard—it was like a mind game. I saw the Tahiti guy was kind of close so then I was like 'oh, I gotta step up my game a bit,' but then the last 50m, it was really challenging because I tried not to give up and sprint it."

Going up against the best of the best swimmers in Oceania and beating them all, the swimmer of 12 years said, "it feels good. Now I know where I'm at. I'm the top swimmer of the 200m [butterfly in Oceania. I think those people didn't expect it too."

Being up on the podium with the flag up there for everyone to see and the national anthem playing for everyone to hear, Aleksenko said, "it felt good. I'm really happy people got to see our flag. I'm happy to represent Saipan. I did this for God, my mom, my family, and for my island. I hope they're happy too and I feel honored to represent our island."

As for how it felt not only getting gold but breaking the old record set 35 years ago, he said, "I'm happy. It was a long-standing record, and I broke it after 35 years, and I hope I hold

See REALLY on Page 21

Zhi leads golf, Villanueva advances

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—It was Thanksgiving back home, but the CNMI delegation in the South Pacific had another day of training and competition.

Golf's lone woman player, Zhi Min Jin leads the individual standings after Round 2 of golf yesterday morning at the Honiara Golf Course, while tennis' Moris Villanueva advanced to the next round of singles matches.

Jin rose and shone early yesterday morning as she teed off first before the men's team. She finished the course with the same score as Round 1 with a 7-over 79.

Despite in the lead, the 16-year-old Marianas High School student said she could've done better.

"I feel kind of disappointed in myself because I know that I could've done better but I lost my focus during the game and made some dumb mistakes. The greens were worse than yesterday and the weather was way cooler than yesterday."

Marco Peter, golf's team manager, said that Jin "drove the ball well today (yesterday). Horrendous greens condition cost her few 3 putts. Scores were higher across the board, but she managed to steady herself to another round of 79."

The men's team of Franco Santos, Ben Jones Jr., Joe Sasamoto, and Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, finished their round of golf late yesterday afternoon with everyone scoring

See ZHI on Page 21

2023 PACIFIC GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS

(As of November 23, 2023 | 6:30PM)

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Australia	23	13	6	42
New Caledonia	22	18	21	61
Samoa	12	5	3	20
Tahiti	7	16	21	44
Solomon Islands	7	9	7	23
Marshall Islands	5	3	2	10
Papua New Guinea	4	4	9	17
Guam	4	1	2	7
Kiribati	3	0	4	7
Cook Islands	3	0	2	5
Northern Mariana Islands	2	1	4	7
FSM	2	0	0	2
Fiji	1	7	6	14
New Zealand	1	4	4	9
Nauru	0	5	5	10
Tuvalu	0	3	0	3
Tonga	0	2	3	5
Vanuatu	0	1	3	4
American Samoa	0	1	0	1
Wallis and Futuna	0	1	0	1
Palau	0	0	3	3
Niue	0	0	0	0
Norfolk Island	0	0	0	0
Tokelau	0	0	0	0

PROUD SPONSORS OF TEAM MARIANAS

Santos, Muldon gobble top spot in 2023 Turkey Trot

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

NMI Cross Country Team runner Victor Nash Santos and Dr. Lily Muldoon topped the 2023 Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run held bright and early yesterday morning.

The duo—as well as age group winners—got a free frozen turkey for all their troubles as their Thanksgiving centerpiece is already taken care of by the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics and the event's many sponsors.

Santos, a sophomore at Mt. Carmel School, sprinted up the arduous 4.2-mile course in 39:48:88 to finish first overall, while Muldoon came in *numero uno* among the women with a time of 44:46.38.

"The run was really tiring and mentally challenging. This is the hardest race I've ever been a part of because it's uphill. My goal at first was to beat the people within my age group which was really hard since I was way behind. After catching up with the other high schoolers, it wasn't until I saw Keith [Longuski] when I decided to push myself more. I just remember getting closer until we both walked for a bit when we were thrown this huge uphill near the end. We were head-to-head for the last 100 meters until I gave it

See SANTOS on Page 21

NMA

Participants of the 2023 Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Run pose for a group photo yesterday morning atop Saipan's highest peak.